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# THE *Country* GUIDE



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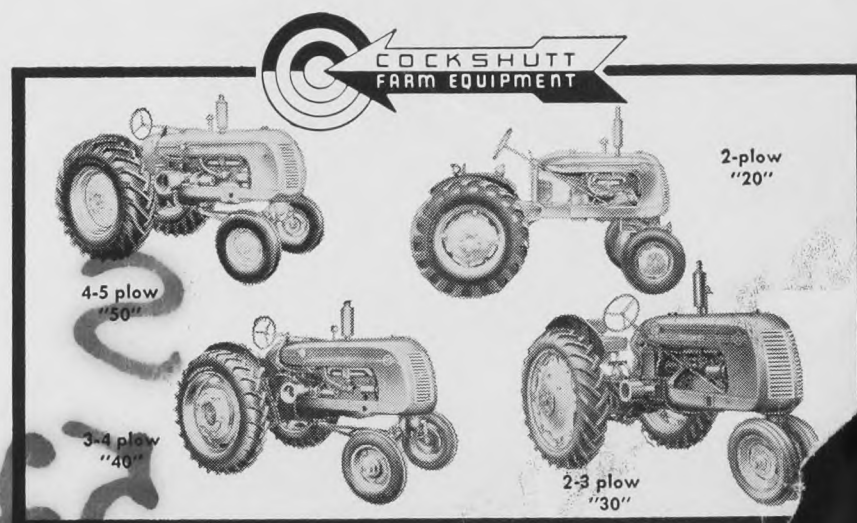
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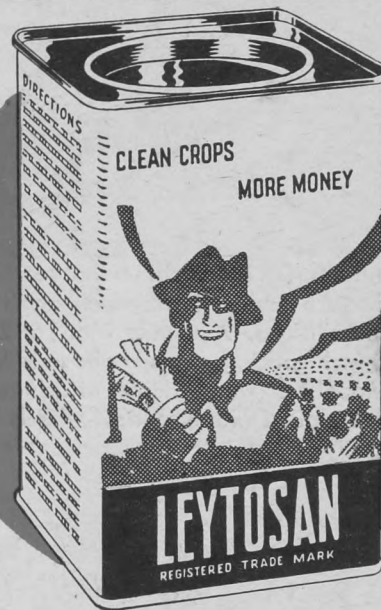
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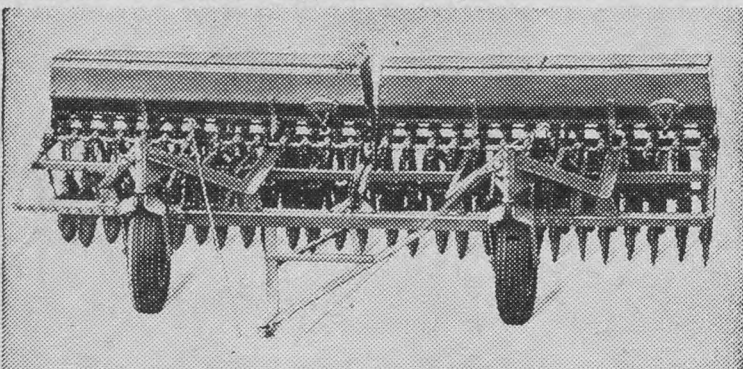


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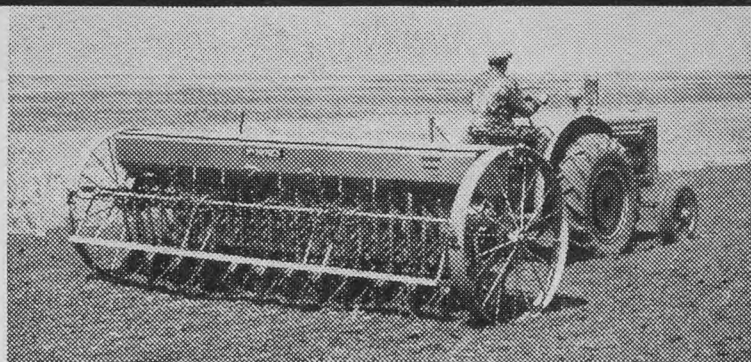
**McCORMICK LOW-WHEEL GRAIN DRILLS** that seed accurately at 5 mph. The low pressure rubber-tired wheels don't clog with dirt—reduce slippage on hillsides. Available with 16, 20, 22, 24 and 28 markers with 6-inch spacing. Shown above is McCormick Model M plain drill. Model MF (with fertilizer attachment) is also available. Both models supplied with high steel wheels if desired.



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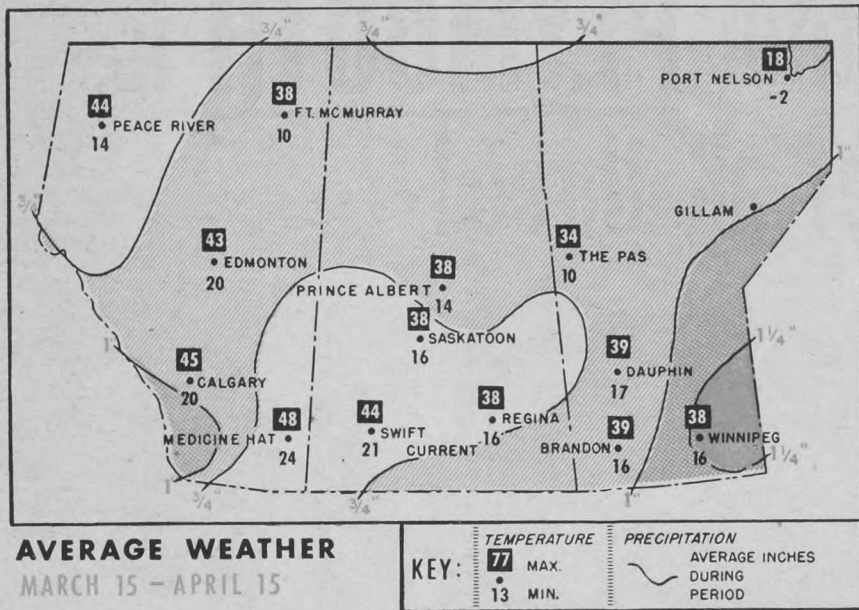
# Prairie Weather

Prepared by DR. IRVING P. KRICK and Staff

for

THE Country GUIDE

(Allow a day or two either way in using this forecast. It should be 75 per cent right for your area, but not necessarily for your farm.—ed.)



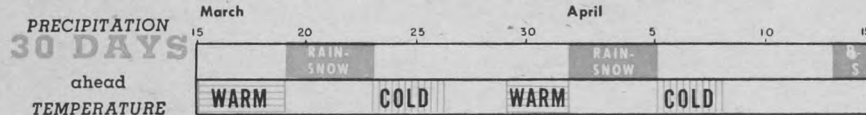
## Alberta

With two periods of warmer-than-usual weather expected to prevail during the last half of March, temperatures in Alberta can be expected to average warmer than usual. However, cold temperatures following the March 21 storm, as well as the April 1 storm, should remind farmers and ranchers that winter weather conditions are still around. Low readings during the two cold spells will be well below zero on several days.

Rainfall and snowfall totals will be

less than normal during the last half of March, but in April a trend toward near-normal precipitation amounts will become established. It seems likely, however, that slight moisture deficiencies will continue during this period in the southern portion of the province.

Tillage operations will increase materially by mid-April, and seeding of small grains and sugar beets will commence in the Lethbridge area. Supplemental feed requirements will diminish as pastures and ranges initiate new growth.



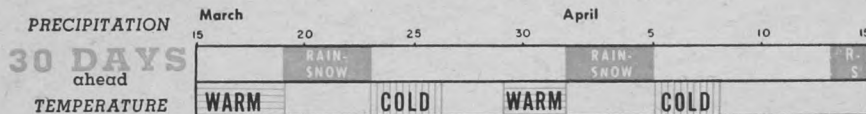
## Saskatchewan

A noticeable shift in the general weather pattern is expected to occur around the end of March. Where the weather period to this time in Saskatchewan is likely to be characterized by somewhat warmer and drier than usual conditions, early April should bring cold and wet weather into the province. During the prospective warm spells, afternoon temperatures are likely to range from 40 to 45 degrees over much of Saskatchewan.

wan. However, a return to well below zero temperature readings will accompany the indicated cold periods.

Greater than usual amounts of snow and rain may be expected, particularly during the early April storm interval. The mid-April storm also should bring above normal precipitation.

Cold, wet conditions, especially in April, will retard growth of fall rye, pastures, and ranges, and impede tillage operations. Supplemental feed requirements will continue heavy throughout the province.



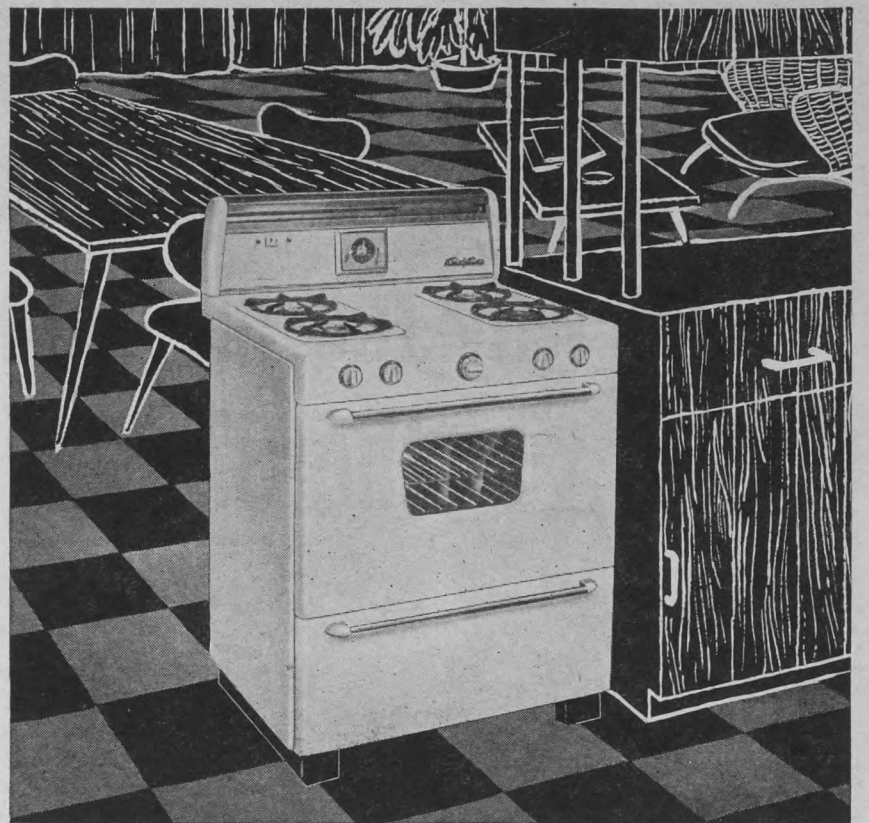
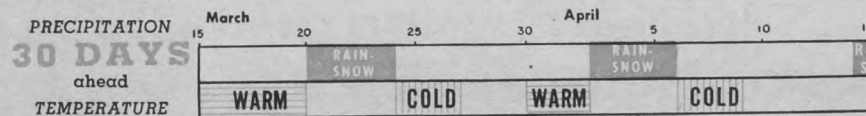
## Manitoba

The last half of March in Manitoba is expected to be characterized by warmer than usual temperatures. However, the cold spell that is indicated to follow the March 22 storm will drop minimum temperatures to 10 or more degrees below the zero level. A second important cold spell will develop after the early April storm period, and temperatures again will drop to well below zero readings. During the first part of

April, therefore, Manitoba should look for colder than usual weather to prevail.

Precipitation totals for the March 15 through April 15 period will vary considerably from north to south. Above normal totals will be recorded in the south; below normal in the north.

Cold weather will keep farm activity at a minimum. Little growth of forage crops is anticipated and supplemental feeding of livestock will continue heavy.



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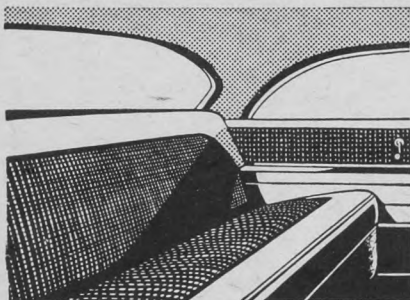
This year, of all years, it pays to *look at all three!* For this brilliant '55 Plymouth is all-new from the tires up!

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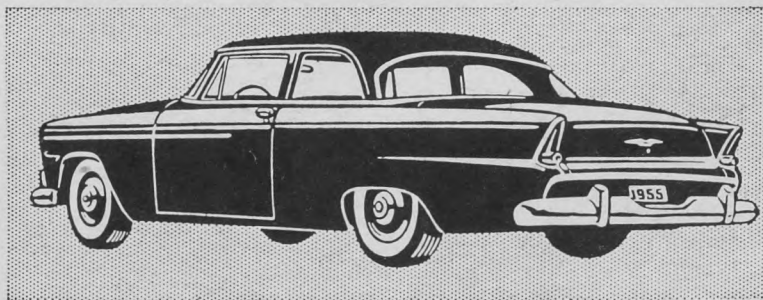
Plymouth's New Horizon swept-back windshield is the first to wrap fully around at top as well as at the bottom—to give you extra vision at eye level where you need it most!

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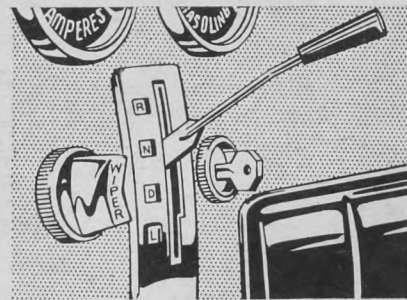
*Manufactured in Canada by Chrysler Corporation of Canada, Limited*



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# Now They All Go to School

**"YOU'RE** never too old to learn," is a well worn phrase, but the farm people in the country around Kindersley, in west central Saskatchewan, believe it devoutly. Folks from 17 to 70 are sharpening their pencils and spending their evenings listening to the steady droning of teachers, and the scratching of chalk on blackboards, and are exposing themselves once more to the heady smell of chalk dust.

In a dozen communities son and daughter go to the schoolhouse during the day to bone up on the "three R's" and dad and mother use the same school seats in the evening, determined to master the intricacies of vocational agriculture and homemaking.

It all harks back to the philosophy of the administrators and board members of the Kindersley Larger School Unit. Soon after the Unit was formed, those responsible for administering it pointed out to one another that they were located in a predominately agricultural area. "Where farm people constitute a part of the population in the unit area, the schools have a responsibility for providing education in agriculture," some of them said. "Agreed," said others, "but what do we do, and how do we do it?"

The answer to those two questions appeared simple, but appearances were deceptive.

In November, 1948, four-week courses on farm mechanics, soil science, and farm management were run consecutively in a room in the school in Kindersley. The 20 adults (aged 18 to 70) who took the three courses assured instructor Ole Turnbull, Kindersley district farmer and graduate in agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan, that it was a fine and useful course. The program appeared to be launched.

Again, appearances were deceptive. In 1949-50, a well qualified instructor was hired, but only eight farmers turned up to take the course. The lack of interest was disappointing, and the cost of teaching such a small class was prohibitive.

During 1950-51 no course was given, but forces were regrouped and more plans were made. In 1951-52, a graduate in both agriculture and education was engaged to give an agricultural course to the junior high school students (Grades VII, VIII and IX) and another course to senior high school students (Grades X, XI and XII).

This plan was the one that would launch agricultural education! It failed too. "I suppose the real problem was too much lecture and too little laboratory," Cecil Collins, school superintendent for the Kindersley School Unit told The Country Guide. "We didn't succeed in selling the farm fathers and mothers on the plan," he said.

**I**NTEREST by the parents is regarded as fundamental to the teaching of agriculture. When fathers take a lively interest and there is close liaison between teacher, student and parent, it is easy to make the course a success. This liaison was lacking at Kindersley. It was felt that a part of the farm—a piece of land, a cow, a few pigs, or chickens—should be managed by the student, aided by his father's help and advice. Many of the parents agreed, but the pressure of farm work led to neglect of the project. Dad was too busy to take the necessary time to set up a project, and help a student son or daughter run it.

The leasing of 100 acres of land, to be worked by the students as a source of prac-



J. W. Clarke lecturing a class of farmers in Craiglands School

*Vocational training in agriculture didn't work in the Kindersley Larger School Unit until the parents were given courses, too*

by RALPH HEDLIN

tical experience and training, did not prove a success.

After its first year of operation the course was dropped. A second failure had been chalked up. But the failures demonstrated what wouldn't work; the Unit had learned enough that they were now ready to start again, and with a scheme that they were sure would succeed.

"We decided that what we needed was a man, perhaps I should say a personality, who would really put this 'show on the road for us," said Cecil Collins. They wanted a man who would come in and set up a vocational agricultural program that would involve high school students, young people on farms who did not yet have their own land, and adult farmers. "We felt that we should get the right man, give him a free hand to do what he wanted, and let him holler for help if he needed it," said Collins.

**A**FTER searching through Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and down into Minnesota, they finally found the man they wanted in their own backyard. J. W. Clarke, master of science degree graduate in agriculture, and economist with the Marketing Service of the Canada Department of Agriculture's office in Saskatoon accepted the challenge. "We felt that Jim had the personality, sincerity, maturity and ability to set this thing up," said Cecil Collins.

This estimate doesn't appear to have been wide of the mark. Clarke arrived in Kindersley on July 1, 1953, and after stopping just long enough to settle his wife and son, he went on to the country. He talked to old farmers, young farmers, large farmers,

small farmers, and a lot of farmers in between, and came back with the answer that agricultural training at the adult level would be the thing. The Unit Board told him to carry on.

He then went back to the country and soon returned with the answer that the greatest interest was in courses in mechanics, field husbandry, farm management and animal husbandry, in that order. He took a swing down through the United States to see how the Americans operated and came back to Kindersley ready for work.

Interest had appeared to be particularly evident in the Craiglands, Gold-eye and Coleville districts. Clarke called meetings in the three areas and all three agreed that they would like a course in farm accounting. With ten attending at Coleville, 20 at Craiglands, and 24 at Goldeye, Jim came one evening a week to each and expounded the principles of farm accounting.

The courses started in mid-October and ended at Christmas. At the conclusion of the course each group formed a Vocational Farmers' Association, complete with officers and constitution, and the associations voted to continue with other courses.

By this time, other communities were becoming interested, and soon there was an association at Fairmont with 19 charter members, one at Merrington with 36, another at Madison with 24, and one at Beadle with 34.

**M**EMBERSHIP soon grew. One meeting at Beadle attracted over 80 people. Further, the ladies were not prepared to let the men have a monopoly of this opportunity and began to turn up in large numbers. The men were pre-occupied with courses in the wiring of buildings, arc and gas welding, farm accounts, farm management, field and animal husbandry, insect pests, plant diseases, farm mechanics and carpentry, but the ladies wanted something suited to their own needs. Clarke was enthusiastic. Mrs. Harry Berg of Coleville, who before her marriage was household science teacher in the Kindersley School Unit, started courses in sewing. Plans were made for courses in interior decorating, cooking, foods and nutrition. Qualified instructors were provided for all courses.

It is widely recognized that all work and no play runs a weak second to some work and some play, and the association members were well aware of this fact. Social functions have been staged by most of the associations, especially during the summer when classroom activity falls away. One association organized a monster community picnic. Several associations organized softball teams, set up a league and played against one another.

The end is not yet. During the past winter vocational agricultural associations were formed at Muriel, Stony Vista, Pinkham, Alsask, Loverna and Whiteside. Associations are being organized at Eaton, Laporte and Marengo.

The association program is expanding in another direction. A "farm management service" has grown out of courses given in farm management and accounting. Farmers keeping accounts receive from Clarke a confidential report and an analysis of their year's operations. The report gives cost and income comparisons—in other words, tells a farmer how much money he is making from each of the enterprises on his farm.

Judging by the response, this information is important to the farmers in the district; (Please turn to page 38)



Millar Ritchie (left) showing a sample of rust-damaged wheat to J. W. Clarke.



# Family Farm in Denmark

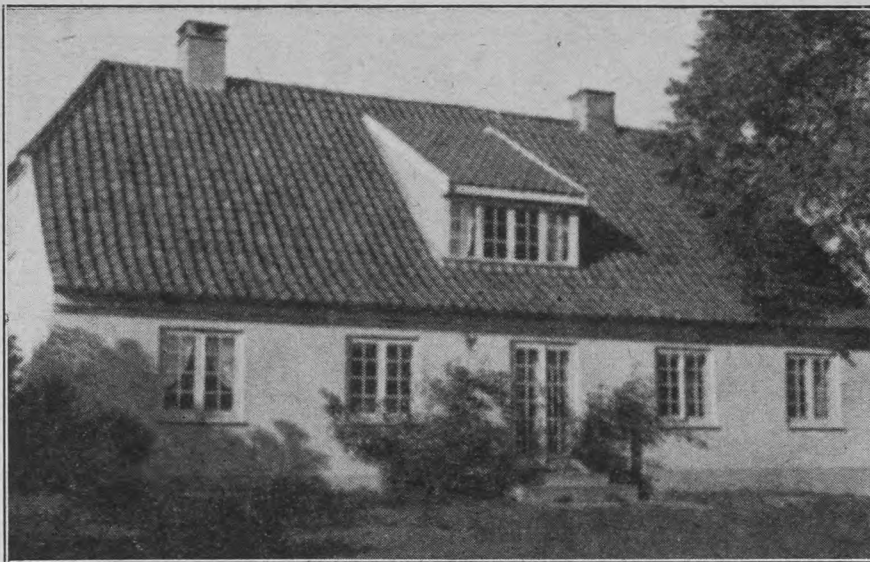
**T**HE drive from Copenhagen to Elsinore, the ancient Danish castle from whose walls Hamlet is said to have soliloquized, is more likely to make a visiting Canadian homesick, than any other spot in Europe.

The highway dips and rises through a pleasant landscape, rolling and green. The landscape is dotted with groves of trees concealing well-kept farmsteads. It might be Ontario's Bruce County, or, but for the closeness of the farms, it could be Manitoba parkland. The Danish countryside epitomizes prosperity—and, more important, production. There is a distinct sensation that every yard of ground is yielding something.

It's rather odd for a Canadian visitor to reflect that the turning of sod on the great plains of North America 75 years ago, played no small part in shaping the future of the Danish farmer. Forced from the role of a grain supplier to Europe, by the influx of cheap American cereals, the Danish farmer developed an alternative reputation for meat, dairy and poultry production that has stood him in good stead down to the present day. And just incidentally, the standard of excellence achieved by Danish farm products has given Canadian agriculture some cause for soul-searching, as we turned our attention to similar lines of production for export.

Thus, it is only natural that a Canadian farmer should ponder on the methods of his Danish counterpart, and wish to see in Canada such a highly efficient nation of farmers. Just where does all the Danish bacon and butter originate?

If you turn off the main north highway at Hillerod, 25 miles north of Copenhagen, and drive west, past an almost Canadian looking "whistle stop"



*The Olsen farm dwelling is modern in every detail and hides the old-style courtyard which is so much a part of European farmsteads.*

## *The story of a productive livestock farm north of Copenhagen*

by PETER HENDRY

—Brodeskov—you reach a farm which gives some idea of a typically thorough Danish operation. The story of Vilhelm Olsen's farm is best summarized thus:

In 1953 the 100-acre farm fed 39 milk cows producing an average of 4,328 kilograms (9,543 pounds) of fluid milk, with a butterfat content of 4.28 per cent, as well as 380 hogs bought at ten weeks of age and reared to market weights. With only minor exceptions, all the necessary feed was produced on the farm.

Behind the bald statistics of that record, however, lie the careful planning, awareness of approved methods and keen business sense that typify Vilhelm Olsen and thousands of other Danish farmers. There is also, still, a great deal of work.

**A** DAY on the Olsen farm starts at 4:00 a.m. By 6:00 a.m. a set of milking machines has finished milking some three dozen Red Danish cows. Mr. Olsen admits that farming has become easier in the last 20 years—easier from the point of view of actual physical effort—but he still finds it pays to get up early in the morning.

The Olsen farmstead is a neat, white compound of buildings, fronted by a large comfortable dwelling, which overlooks a well-kept lawn and garden, and beyond to fields of barley, sugar beets and pastureland.

One wing of the compound comprises the long low dairy barn, with the stanchions facing outward. The dairy, with a large, submerged cooler for the fluid milk, is at one end of barn, and the silo has been built at

the other. The other two sides are largely taken up with accommodation for hogs, with some space allotted to grain storage and machinery.

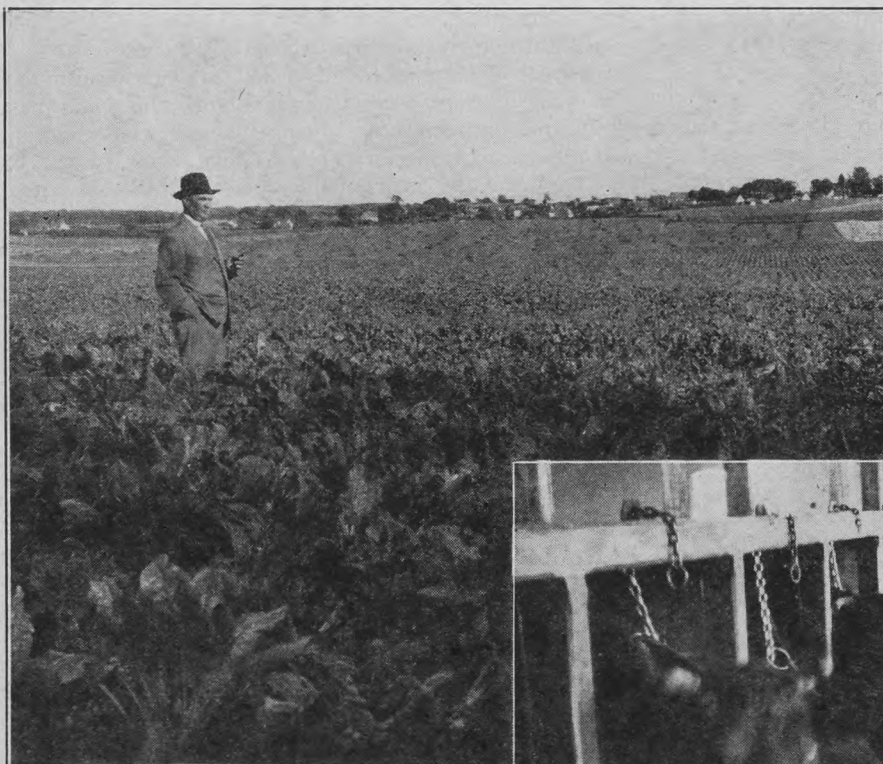
While the dairy herd has been maintained fairly constant, there has been a tendency on the Olsen farm to have the pig population fluctuate. In 1953, Mr. Olsen was not breeding any pigs, but purchased all those which he marketed, 380 in all, at the age of ten weeks. However, when we visited the farm in August, 1954, he had restocked the farm with eight registered Danish Landrace sows and was once again supplying his own weanlings. At times the farm has had as many as 25 sows.

Mr. Olsen figures on marketing two lots of hogs a year and usually tries to have the larger lot on feed through the summer months. The feed ration is one highly recommended by the Danish experimental pig feeding stations—barley chop, skim milk and whey. Mr. Olsen has been fortunate in acquiring sufficient skim milk to meet dietary requirements in the hog barn. Currently, in Denmark, a great deal of experimentation is taking place with various meal preparations designed to be used as partial substitutes for skim milk.

**T**HERE were about 50 head of cattle on the Olsen farm at the time of our visit, all of them of the registered Red Danish breed. Of medium calibre in quantity of production and relatively high in butterfat content, the Red Danish are probably closer to the Jersey than any other breed raised in Canada.

For a number of years now Mr. Olsen has been selling all the milk to a nearby state experimental dairy operated on a co-operative basis under the ministry of agriculture. It's a rather interesting sidelight on Danish

*(Please turn to page 40)*



*Above: Vilhelm Olsen examines a heavy crop of sugar beets—the roots for rough fodder and the tops for ensilage.*

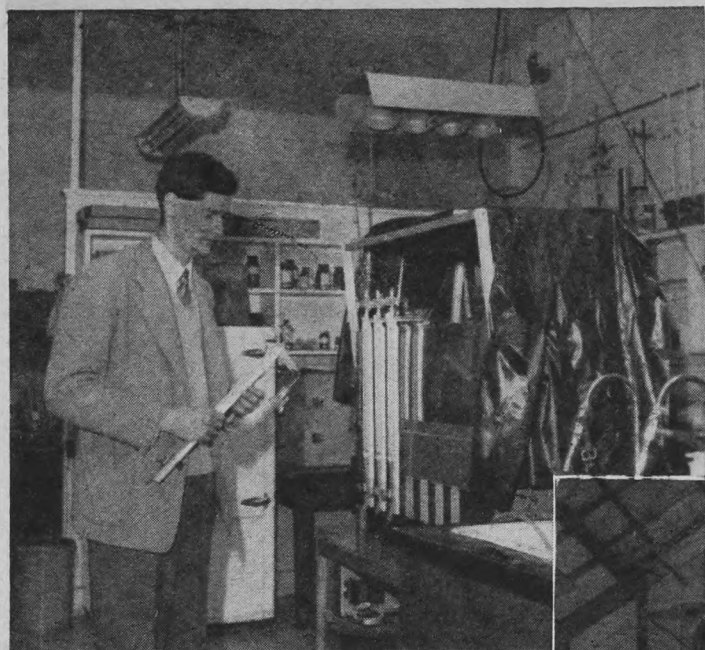
*Right: Feeding time for the registered Red Danish cows. Milking is at four o'clock, morning and afternoon.*



*Above: The garden is Mrs. Olsen's delight and in front of the home is a profusion of shrubs and flowers.*



# Counter Attack on Wheat Rust



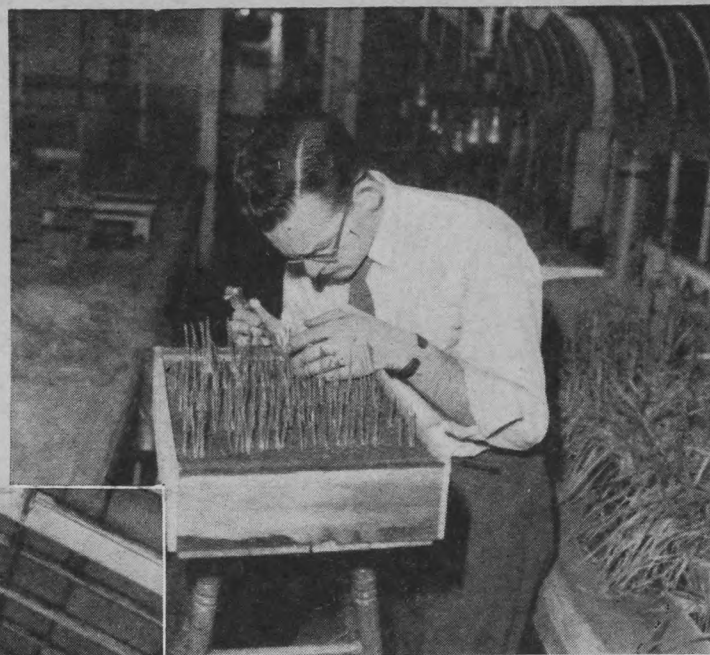
Dr. M. Shaw demonstrates plant respirometer at the University of Saskatchewan.

*Biologists at the U. of Sask. seek emergency rust control method to supplement efforts of plant breeders*

by

C. V. FAULKNER

*Dr. Shaw operates temperature and humidity unit.*



Technician K. Chaney inoculates wheat seedlings with rust spores.

**O**FFENSIVE and defensive strategy are integral parts of modern war, but it is the offensive arm which bears the onus of final victory. In the fight against wheat rust, plant breeders forge the weapons of defensive war by producing a steady stream of resistant varieties to help us check the invader. As far as the chemistry of the wheat leaf is concerned, however, they are not seeking to find out what is involved in this resistance. Their job is to select plant strains which bear resistant genes, in order to have a promising new variety in quantity production before the rust enemy can build up to epidemic proportions. At times the breeders succeed, and sometimes they do not. Potential casualties of this continuous war are the high quality wheat varieties that have served us well, but might have to be abandoned for others of inferior quality.

The development of Selkirk wheat is a case in point. It became a race between the new wheat variety and a particular form of rust—and Selkirk lost. Race 15B of stem rust had patrols scouting our territory in 1950; and launched an all-out attack four years later, before a large defensive force of Selkirk could be put in the field. The see-saw struggle goes on—new wheat varieties and deadly new rust strains follow one another as surely as night follows day. But you can't wipe out rust by breeding new grain varieties, any more than you can cure cancer with radiation. At best, it can only be controlled. This enemy will always attack until we sound him out, find his weak points, and conduct a vigorous counter-offensive.

**A**T the University of Saskatchewan, biologists are now busy on a rust research project which could lay the ground work for such an attack—they are sounding the enemy out. Now entering its third year, the investigation is seeking the answer to two important questions: (1) why rust grows only on a living plant; and (2)

what basic mechanism of resistance a plant possesses. If nothing else, knowledge of the latter would enable the testing of resistant varieties to be speeded up.

"Once the basic causes of rust are known," explained Dr. Michael Shaw of the Biology Department, "we might (and he admitted it was a big might) be able to find an economical way of attacking the disease with chemicals."

Under the direction of Dr. Shaw, the project operates on an annual grant of \$8,000 from the Canada Department of Agriculture. Full-time research on the problem is conducted by biology associate D. J. Sam-borski, with the assistance of laboratory technicians. An investigation of mildew (in many ways quite similar to rust) is being carried on at the same time under a grant from the National Research Council. In addition to these, two further grants, amounting to \$5,500 have been made by the United Grain Growers, some of which has been used to purchase special technical equipment. Two

major items of equipment used by researchers to probe the secrets of rust organisms are a respirometer, and a unit for temperature and humidity control.

Rust-infected plants have a very high metabolism rate. That is to say, all the chemical changes involved in the living cells of the plant, such as food manufacture and storage, and the release of energy stored in these foods for growth and life, are speeded up by the rust. This latter phase of plant metabolism is called "respiration," and involves the union of oxygen with the released foods to supply the needed energy. Therefore, the respirometer, by measuring the amount of oxygen used by plant tissue in a given length of time, gives the rate of respiration. Because all the chemical processes within the plant are geared to the same speed, it also gives the over-all metabolism rate of the plant. If you're feeling out-of-sorts sometime and your doctor decides to give you a B.M.R. (basal metabolism rate) test,



*Rust pustules on wheat leaf show up plainly because of radioactive sugar they attract.*

he'll be after the same type of information, but the apparatus he uses won't be quite so impressive.

While the plant respirometer has enough tubes and pipes dangling from it to delight a Hollywood director shooting one of those "mad scientist" scenes, the appearance of the temperature and humidity control machine is as familiar as your home air-conditioning unit or deep freeze. This device, as its name implies, enables research workers to grow plants under known and controlled conditions of climate. They can reproduce extremely dry, or wet seasons, and bring on sudden or prolonged heat waves or cold spells, by the flip of a switch. If you could build one of those big enough to cover the whole farm, you'd never have to worry about the weather, or wheat rust either for that matter.

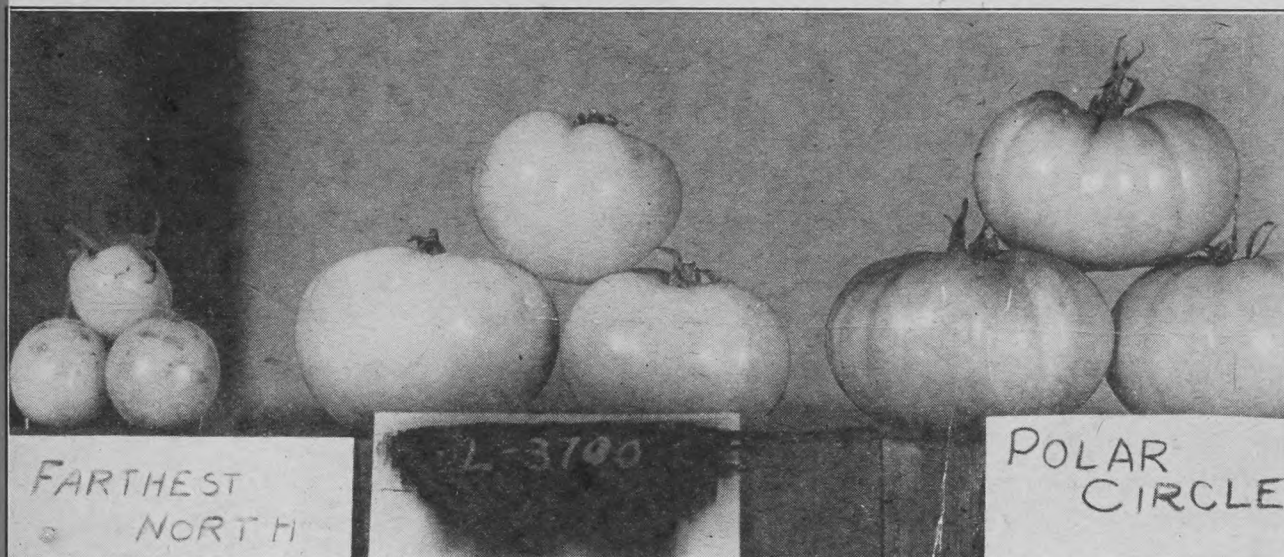
**R**UST spores are actually parasites which feed on the food the plant normally manufactures for its own use. When they draw this food to the areas they have infected, which are called rust pustules (or sores), they interfere with the regular movement of food in the plant cells, and plant growth is checked. But it is this movement of food to the rust pustules which gives researchers a chance to observe the progress and nature of the disease organisms. They feed infected plants sugar which has been made radioactive; and this sugar gathers around the pustules so that they light up like neon signs. It works the same way as dropping flares on enemy lines to see what's going on.

Four classes of wheat plants are kept under observation, and each one is checked against the others. These include healthy plants of a variety susceptible to rust, and diseased plants of the same type, as well as healthy plants of a rust-resistant variety, and plants of the latter which have been inoculated with rust spores. Both classes of diseased plants have been infected artificially in the labora-

(Please turn to page 41)



# Wanted—a Large, Early Tomato



*Farthest North, a small early tomato, was crossed at Lethbridge with Polar Circle, to produce L-3700, later named Earli-north, which is larger than, and almost as early as Farthest North.*

*Can such a tomato be produced for Canada? Perhaps, and perhaps not. This article tells something of what is involved*

by CHARLES WALKOF

**D**URING the last 20 years it has become fairly commonplace for plant breeders to produce new varieties of farm crops, which are in one or more respects better than varieties that were previously grown. Few kinds of crops have escaped the attention of the plant breeder during this period, whether they be cereals, hay or pasture plants, row crops, fruits or vegetables. The reason is that about the turn of the century the discovery of Mendel's Law put a firmer foundation under man's efforts to improve plants and animals by breeding. With this new knowledge to build on, progress has been fairly rapid.

A very interesting example of what the plant breeder can do with the knowledge presently available is provided by the tomato plant. In its natural state the tomato is a subtropical vegetable, but the plant breeder has been extending the range of its growing conditions, until varieties such as Farthest North and Earli-

north can be grown in the Peace River area, at Fort Simpson, and even at Fairbanks, Alaska. Other new varieties of tomatoes, somewhat later in ripening, but with larger fruit-size and suitable for the central parts of the prairie provinces, are the 'Early Lethbridge and Meteor varieties, as well as the Mustang and Monarch hybrids. There will soon be introduced from the experimental station at Morden a new tomato suitable for the southern prairies, which is medium early and produces fruit weighing up to 14 and 16 ounces each.

Naturally, the plant breeder seeking varieties for our northern climate is looking for a tomato that is both early and large-fruited. Combining these characteristics in one plant or variety constitutes the problem, and only when the combination is achieved will the work of the plant breeder really pay off. Once this combination is secured, he will still have plenty to do in creating still newer varieties which will show improved quality, or

higher yield, or better disease resistance.

**B**REEDING better tomatoes is fascinating work. A mechanically minded farmer can sometimes take an assortment of scrap materials and make some new and special piece of equipment from them. He can, however, see exactly what he is working with, and in this respect his work is different from that of the plant breeder. The farmer or gardener, who plants a crop without knowing what may happen to it before harvest, can still see everything he is working with, and everything that happens to the crop, except for a very few days immediately after seeding or planting. The plant breeder's problem really stems from the fact that he can never really see the most vital material he is working with, namely, that part of the plant which is the carrier of the inheritance from one generation to the next. He knows that there is such material, because plants breed true. He

knows that there must be some *unit* of this material just as the *cell* is the unit of body structure, either in plants or animals, and just as two atoms of hydrogen and one atom of oxygen when combined make a unit—a molecule—of water. He knows, too, that within each cell of a plant is a nucleus, and that inside this nucleus, thread-like bodies called *chromosomes* are found in pairs, the number of which varies between species of plants. The tomato, about which we are writing here, has 12 pairs. The important thing is that these pairs of chromosomes are composed of units of inheritance-carrying material, each of which may influence a particular character of the succeeding generation, such as height, yield, size, color, and so on. These units of inheritance-carrying material are called *genes*, and they are so small that the very smallest objects that our microscopes can see are about four times the size of a gene. The location of these minute units of inheritance on a chromosome has been compared with that of beads on a string.

The plant breeder also knows that certain plant characters are *dominant* and that their opposites are *recessive*. Thus, tallness in a tomato plant is dominant over shortness, which is recessive, and the red color of tomatoes is dominant over yellow color. This means that if a tall, red-fruited tomato were crossed with a short, yellow kind, all of the first generation plants would be tall, and bear red fruits. There are, however, varying degrees of dominance associated with many different characters.

*Environment* is another word often used by plant breeders. It refers to the surroundings in which the plant must grow, such as weather, soil and moisture conditions. The tomato breeder must concern himself with a number of important tomato characters, but in our prairie climate a variety is not very useful unless it will mature a fair crop of ripe fruit which is at least about as large as a tennis ball.

**A**NY attempt to combine early ripening with fruit size in the tomato is bound to fail, unless suitable varieties are chosen as parents. The plant breeder, therefore, must know whether the characters that are to be brought together in a new strain or variety, can be passed on readily from the parent plants to their progeny.

Early ripening and large size cannot be passed on from parents to their progeny, as a result of only one cross. This is because not all of the genes representing these characters are transferred from parent to progeny at one time. Many genes which are thought to be located on all of the 12 pairs of chromosomes on the tomato, control the development of early ripening and of large fruit size, but the actual numbers of genes involved is not known.

The plant breeder, therefore, tries to overcome his lack of knowledge (Please turn to page 42)



*Above: A Flemming meter records tomato size rapidly where many fruits must be measured.*

*Left: Emasculating the tomato flowers, by removing the male parts, makes the blossom ready for cross-pollination.*



# Herefords without Horns

**L**AST spring, at a meeting held in Regina, the Canadian Polled Hereford Club was formed. Its first president was Walter Taylor, of Broadview, Saskatchewan. For him, especially, the formation of this club was an important milestone in a long and eventful career in western Canada, since he first arrived at the age of 14, from London, England. Few in Canada had then heard of Polled Herefords.

Walter joined his brother on a Saskatchewan ranch, and experienced life on the prairies for the first time. From there, however, he homesteaded 75 miles north of Swift Current. This experience, too, was of short duration, because in 1919, about to be married and lured by extravagant claims about the crops to be grown in northern British Columbia, he sold his farm. After a wedding in Swift Current, the newly married couple headed north.

Fifteen miles from Prince George he seeded a crop, and in the fall took his first harvest from a soil that appeared to bear some similarity to cement. The few potatoes he was able to harvest seem now to have been as flat as potato chips, after having been cramped for the season in the hard-baked ground.

With no crop and most of their limited capital invested in the north, the disillusioned young couple shot bears and moose in the bush to keep themselves alive. Meanwhile, they wondered how to get out of the untamed country. Luckily, a few dollars were still owing Walter Taylor from the Saskatchewan farm he had so recently sold, and they were enough to carry them on to a fresh start. Backed this time by his brother, Taylor chose a ranch in the dry area, south of Cadillac, Saskatchewan; and with six horses received in trade for the house they left at Prince George, the new venture was begun.

**W**HILE a cattle herd and the herd of horses grew, Walter's imaginative mind seized upon another idea. A nearby marsh was rich with muskrats. Why not start a muskrat ranch? Six thousand dollars was invested in wire fencing to lock the potentially valuable rodents in their marshy home. Thus, after long hours of work on the cattle ranch, there was additional work to be done on the new adventure. This included visits to other marshes, to trap more muskrats for liberation into the tightly wired enclosure. Finally, when the enclosure was filled with sufficient muskrats, the enterprising fur farmers waited for the first harvest of fur.

They failed, however, to adequately take into account the unpredictability of prairie weather. A heavy snowstorm piled drifts high over the costly fence. The crowded muskrats, much preferring swamps that were less congested, chose the easier road to freedom over the high-piled snow. The rancher watched helplessly as his hope of a profitable fur harvest disappeared without as much as a goodbye.



Walter Taylor and Sid on the Circle T Ranch, looking over a good calf crop of Polled Herefords. [Guide photos]

*Walter Taylor turned completely to Polled Herefords in the '30's, and believes that hornless beef cattle are here to stay*

**by DON BARON**

The fur business, however, was still too profitable to quit it without a struggle, and another idea crystallized in Walter Taylor's mind. He captured a pair of badgers, and having decided that they could be mass-produced, built a fur ranch numbering 40 animals. All were caged and mated. Nevertheless, he was about ready to leave the fur business; and having proved that the independent little animals could be raised in captivity, he found a buyer for all of the pelts and sold them. It was his last fling in the fur business.

The main enterprise of the ranch was, of course, beef cattle, but there was always another source of income. One source of supplementary income in the early years was some Russian

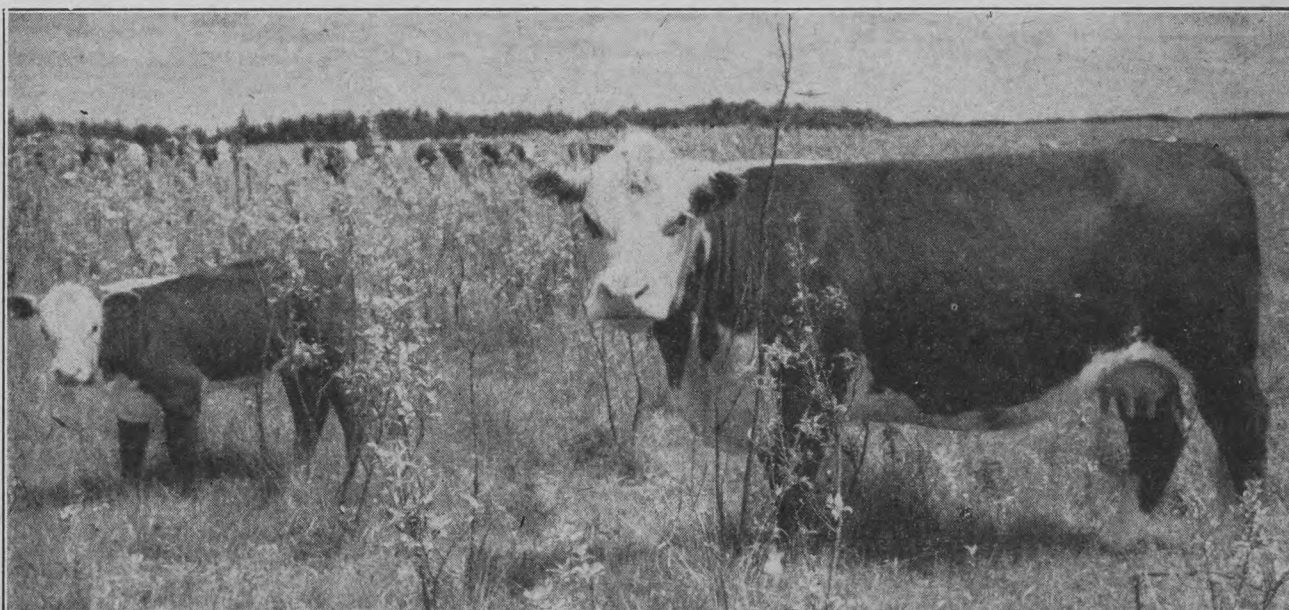
wolfhounds and greyhounds. Most of the revenue for which they were responsible came from coyote hunting. Taylor says one pelt netted the unusual sum of \$28. Day after day the big dogs ran down the coyotes and the rancher claimed the pelts.

Along with all of this he was a gardener, as well, fond of orchards and flowers. The Cadillac farm came to be known throughout the district for the fruit it grew—strawberries, raspberries, black currants, and gooseberries. All of them came out of the garden on the dry prairie, in sufficient volume to fill the shelves of the fruit cellar.

Mrs. Taylor, too, did her full share. Always a hard worker, she was as much at home in the saddle as in the

kitchen. When outdoor work was pressing, the slightly built woman took over the fence riding for the 14 sections of leased land, in addition to 700 crop acres. Her husband and the hired men worked the farm. In those days, cattle more than paid for themselves, and the breeding herd grew until it numbered 300 cows.

**B**UT the dry years were coming. In 1932, feed was so scarce that Taylor was forced to ship the cattle to Eastend for the winter. And the next year, too, they were wintered off the farm. For seven consecutive years Taylor was dried out, but still held on. Finally, in 1937, when the grasshoppers began to eat up the pasture (Please turn to page 43)



One of the better brood cows in the Taylor herd, with a thrifty-looking 1954 copy of herself.



AS soon as she could get free of Granny Haight that morning Karen hurried down toward the stream. It was April and the salmon were running. Karen was worried about her big trout. She had seen salmon chasing young trout in and out among the rocks, but so far nothing had ever disturbed the great rainbow that lived in the deep pool in which no other fish had ever been allowed to wave a fin. Karen always lied to fishermen along the stream when they asked her if she had seen any big trout. Few of them had ever sighted him, she was sure, so perfectly did he blend with the shifting light and shadow in the crevices among the rocks.

As she approached the pool today she saw the imprint of a big round paw in the soft earth by the pool edge. She knew that track, the round-toed pad marks of a big cougar she had caught sight of more than once disappearing like a cloud-shadow in the river woods. She was not afraid of him or of anything else in these woods where she had spent the greater share of her days for seven years now, ever since she came to live with Granny Haight when she was nine. Formerly she had talked with and tagged after whomsoever she willed along the river trails. Now, according to Granny, there were only a few who were proper to associate with and these were staid and bonneted farm wives or silly children, or Harl, of course; big Harl Stor who had been around as long as Karen could remember. Granny's worries and prickly warnings somewhat shadowed days that were otherwise as glorious and sun-shot as the pool or her beautiful rainbow's gleaming sides.

He was there today in his favorite hover, now and then moving lazily forward to snatch at stone-fly larvae or an occasional salmon egg washed out of its gravelly bed by the roistering stream. In the past week he had taken on a suffused and rosy glow along his iridescent length which anglers called "the bloom of the trout." For three springs now Karen had watched this wonder come and go and had guarded it like a treasure. Let an angler approach and the big fish sank craftily from sight, but from Karen he did not hide. Perhaps he was used to seeing her there, she had stood so many times gazing and admiring him. Sometimes, like

# THE CRYSTAL POOL

by PAUL ANNIXTER

*It was April and the salmon were running. Karen was young and there was a dance in town. She was not afraid to visit her favorite spot in the woods and closed her eyes and ears to old Granny Haight's many warnings*

today, he actually rose to the surface for a better look at her. The stillness of the pool seemed a magic thing in the midst of the upstream hiss and roar. Leaning over it, Karen could see herself as in a mirror. In her mind the pool was hundreds of feet deep, even though she could see the pristine sand and the littlest stones at the bottom.

Fifty yards upstream she sighted a big brown bear that included the Kitlitz River and its thickety banks in his wide methodical range: dull, solid and slow moving, Karen had seen him many a time and often passed close to him with scarcely any reaction on his part or hers. He was fishing as usual in a clumsy, lumbering fashion, splashing out into the hissing water of midstream, then slowly shoreward, peering down with his little myopic eyes and reaching far down with his big hairy arms. Now and then he would plop in to the shoulders to bring his two paws together beneath some rocky ledge and sometimes he did not come up empty-handed, either. Sometimes there was a gleaming red salmon to be gulped down like a lozenge. He was always at it and he got results. Karen hoped he never set his little button eyes on her glorious rainbow.

She looked swiftly round, wondering with a little thrill if the cougar, too, might be close and watch-



"That's just too bad," Vince said.  
"What are you going to do in town?"

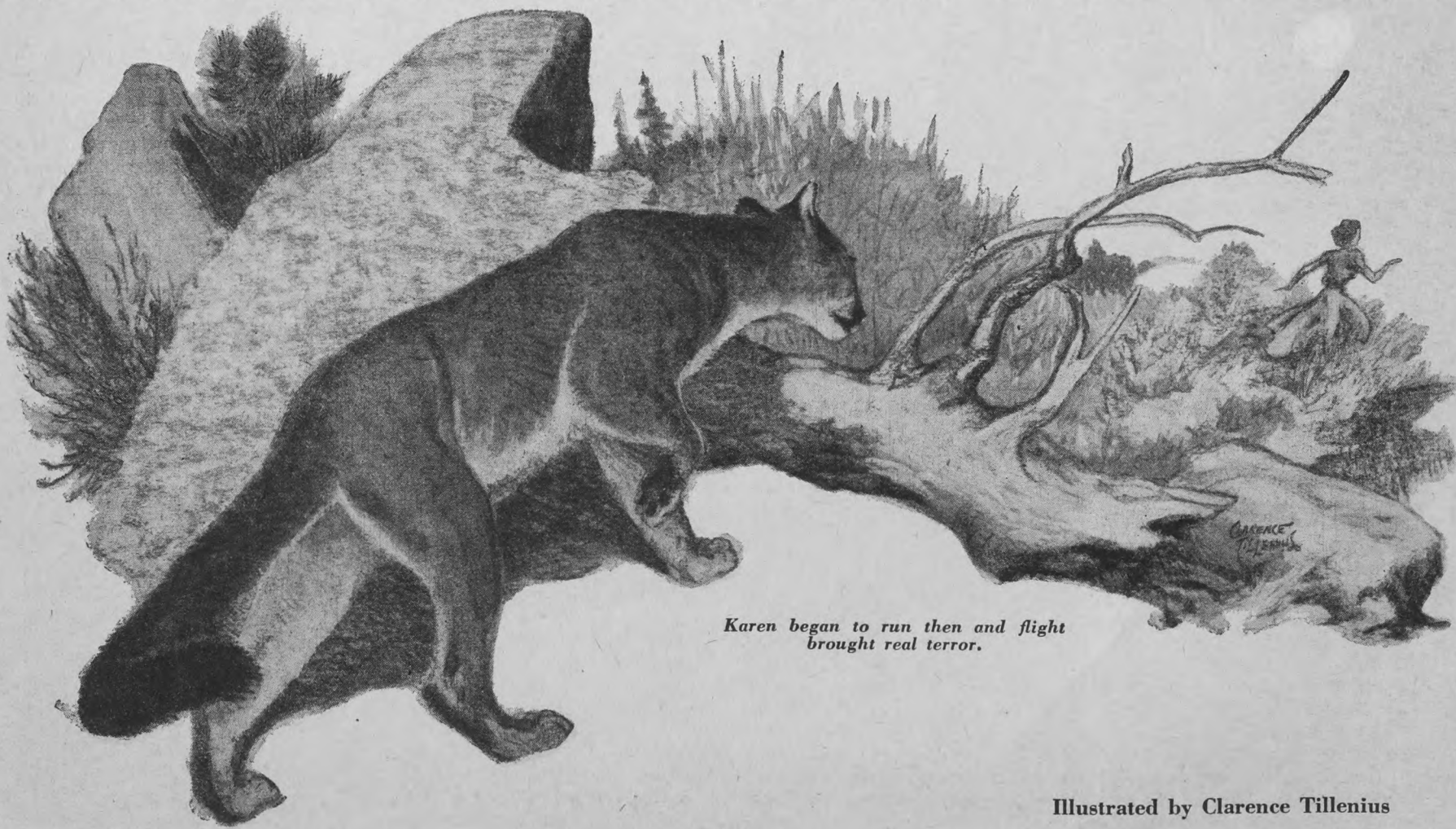
ing. No one would ever know it if he were. Very different was his way as a fisherman. One lightning swoop of an armored forepaw and a fish was his, or if he missed he was off in great rubbery bounds to rid his fur of water. There was something wicked and wonderful in the cougar's shadowy ways, not nice, but beautiful and horribly interesting. Sometimes she wished to be close friends with the cougar one minute and shuddered for fear she would catch sight of him the next. On certain days it was as if he were constantly with her, for every leaf shadow and wind-blown tussock was like his slinky comeuppance.

THE bear was coming gradually nearer. She did not know whether he had seen her or not—there was never any telling about those brown, buttony eyes. If he hadn't, he would see her now. Karen stood up, hoping he would move discreetly off, as a wild thing should, but he did not seem to notice her as she walked down the river trail. She was still worried and she meant to look into the deep pool later and make sure that nothing had happened there. But now she had to hurry to town, for this was Saturday, and tonight was the night of the big dance at Town Hall and she had to call for the new dress that

Mrs. Cramer had been making. Tonight she was going to the dance unchaperoned for the first time, going with Vincent Boody, who really worshipped her. Granny Haight had stood out against that, harping that Harl had really asked her first. But Granny was all wrong about Vincent. She was wrong about dancing, too. Dancing, she said, was just hugging to music. Karen hadn't even noticed the hugging part till Granny spoke of it. It was always Vincent that Granny talked of in all this:

"That fellow's got a bad eye," she always said. "He's as off-color as a three-dollar bill."

Every day this week they had argued about this but it was Vincent Karen had chosen to take her to the dance, even (Please turn to page 60)



Karen began to run then and flight brought real terror.

Illustrated by Clarence Tillenius





The team of oxen that made the trip to Fort Pitt in 1903.

# A Load of Lumber

Barr colonists go to Fort Pitt to get lumber for their first house, in 1903

by F. W. TOWNLEY-SMITH

"TOMORROW morning we will start out to get a load of lumber from Fort Pitt," said my father.

"Where is Fort Pitt?" I asked.

"I know where Fort Pitt is," squealed one of my sisters. "It's where Captain Dickens took refuge with his men in the Indian rebellion 18 years ago. Somewhere on the North Saskatchewan River," she added vaguely.

"It is about 40 miles northwest from here," Father said. "I do not think we shall have much difficulty in finding it. There is an old trail from Battleford to Pitt somewhere between here and the river, which we should strike in about ten miles. After we hit that, it will be easy to find our way. I think you had better get the oxen and tether them close at hand, so that we can make an early start," my father concluded.

It was the end of a hot day in July, 1903. We had arrived in the Northwest Territories, my father and mother, two sisters and I, the only son, with what is now known as the Barr Colony. Since our arrival on the homestead in the middle of May, my father and I had been fully occupied in breaking up a few acres of land, getting up a stack of hay for our oxen and cow during the coming winter. We had also built a house, partly dugout and partly logs. We had joined up with two other settlers in the purchase of machinery; and with one of them—a bachelor—I had been living in the wagon box, which had been placed upon the ground and snugly roofed with the hoops and canvas cover that had given rise to the name "covered wagon" or "prairie schooner."

In the meantime, the rest of my family had lived in a bell tent, which leaked when it rained, and also provided a wonderful rendezvous for mosquitoes.

Now the new house was ready for the roof and the floor. Some of the settlers were using poplar poles covered with new breaking sod, for a roof, but this type could only stand so much rain before it became saturated. It would then commence to drip inside, long after the rain had ceased; and the inhabitants had to go outside to get out of the wet!

My mother, who now had had the experience of living with her family for nearly six months in a bell tent, had decided that a proper roof made of lumber, tar-paper and shingles, with a roof-jack for the chimney, was a must. Also a lumber floor. That, then, was the reason my father decided to make the trip to Fort Pitt, where he could get these things.

Next morning we had an early breakfast and got on our way. At the last minute, our bachelor neigh-

bor made up his mind to go with us, as he required a few things for his own house. The sudden decision to make the journey, had caught the commissariat unawares, and three loaves of bread were all that could be spared from the family larder. As we had expected to be gone three days, we were quite sure we could manage.

WE hit straight north toward the Big Gully Creek, where someone had told us we would find a fairly good crossing. There was not even a wheel mark to follow, but we hit the draw running into the Gully. Its banks were as deep and as steep as those of the Saskatchewan River, though almost bare of trees. It was very steep and stony, and we had to use the logging chain to hold the wagon back. We were all three riding on the running gear, and there was no sitting room to spare, but I noticed that we all got off and walked down the hill. Across the half-mile of creek bed we went—the creek about two feet deep and 15 feet wide—and up the other side. Now we were really in strange country. Nobody we had ever heard of had been across the Gully at that time. Our course was northwest, and we kept on the lookout for the Battleford-Pitt trail.

Almost at once we noticed a scarcity of water, and began to get anxious about our noon-day stop.

Fortunately, we came, about midday, to a small slough which was not quite dry. It smelled to high heaven, and there was a thin, white scum on top of the water. However, the oxen seemed to think it was all right; and when I filtered it through a red neckerchief and took off the scum and

We discovered that Mr. Hewitt originally came from our own county, Leicestershire, in England, so a real chin-chin developed between him and my father, and by the time we had loaded our wagon with our purchases, the day was far spent. We bought a supply of window frames and nails; and when we found that on his last raft he had received a shipment of salt bacon—sowbelly—we got about 50 pounds of that.

THE weather was not very promising, so we decided to get out of the river bottom before we got caught in the rain. We had quite a struggle getting up the hill with our load, but we made it and kept going until we hit our camp of the previous night. By this time it was really raining. We therefore unloaded some of the lumber and leaned it up against the load as a kind of lean-to, and made ourselves more or less comfortable. We had quite a feast of sowbelly, bread and tea, though we agreed that we would have to go carefully on the bread as one loaf was all we had left.

Just about dark, to our astonishment, two men drove up with a wagon and horses. They wanted to get to Lloydminster, but had followed our tracks and were lost. They had no grub, so we told them they had better have some supper and stay the night with us. We enlarged the size of our lean-to and all slept under cover and out of the wet. In the morning it was still raining, so we all had breakfast and talked things over. They thought how well fixed we were for food, when they saw our slab of bacon, but we never told them that we had used up our last loaf of bread for breakfast, or that all we had left was about 49 pounds of sowbelly! It's a good job we had bought that, otherwise we would have had only shingle nails and wet lumber.

We made our lunch on sowbelly and decided it would be a good idea to go home and get a crust of bread. The rain had almost stopped, so we loaded up our lean-to and started off in a southeasterly direction. We picked up our old wagon track, and reached the north bank of the Big Gully Creek just at nightfall. It looked to be just as steep as before, so we decided not to tackle it until morning, even if it did mean a dry camp and two more meals without change of diet. In the early dawn I walked down to the creek to get the oxen, and found a duck's nest with four eggs. To be on the safe side, I broke one, and quickly decided I did not want any. After all, they were probably laid in May, and it was now July.

We had used our logging chain to fasten up our load, but had to take it off to make a rough lock for our wheel, in order to get down the hill. About halfway down, the load slid forward until it brought up against the oxen. If the team had been horses (Please turn to page 42)

BOUGHT OF JOHN WALTER  
DEALER IN  
ROUGH AND DRESSED LUMBER

Strathcona, Alta., 14 July 1903

Sold by M. W. Smith

Got by L. Hewitt

The Copeland-Chatterton Co., Ltd., Sole Makers, Toronto

10	2 x 4 x 16 @ 22.50	225.00
38	Pieces Shingles @ 36.00	1368.00
4	67 Feet	10.50
3000	Shingles @ 38.00	114.00
	Loose Received \$	2190.00

some millions of wrigglers, it did not look so bad. Just a little bit dark-colored. Of course I had not filtered off the smell,—or the taste. The tea tasted rather different from any I had ever encountered before, but it sufficed.

That night we camped by a spring of clear, fresh water. We were now approaching the North Saskatchewan River, and had been travelling on an old trail for several miles. Not a soul had we seen the whole day, and had had no chance to check our direction, or to get an idea of how close we were to Fort Pitt. Anyway, we tethered one of the oxen, made our supper and turned in.

About the middle of the next morning we struck a trail going through the trees down the river bank. We followed it for a couple of miles and found, to our great relief, that we had arrived. There was the river, and there was the lumber yard.

We were greeted by a soft-spoken, bearded man, who told us his name was Hewitt. He had been in the country for some years, and was now operating this lumber yard for an Edmonton firm. The lumber was made up into rafts in Edmonton and then floated some 200 miles down the river to Fort Pitt, where the rafts were broken up. (This place quickly became known as Hewitt's Landing and it is so described on today's maps.)



# ***The Choice is Yours in Chevrolet***

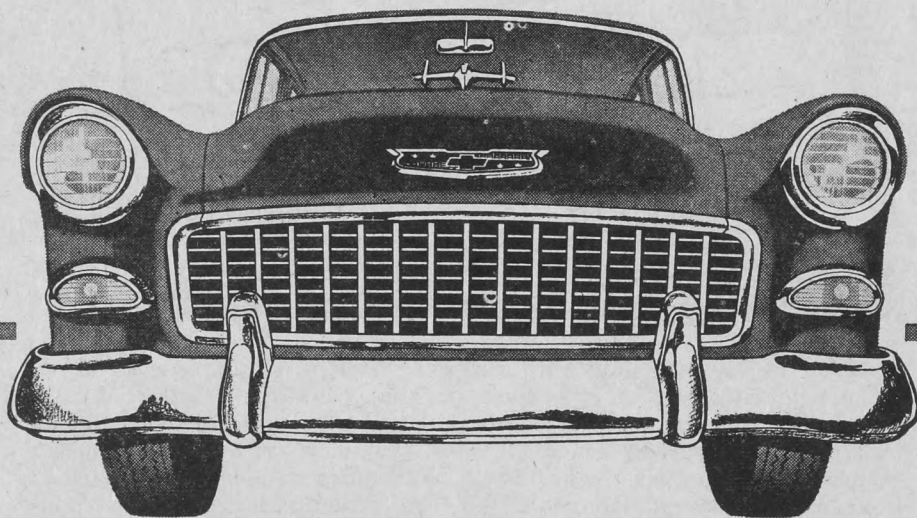
*A Great New Valve-in-head*

# V8



# 6

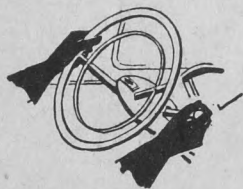
The proudest achievement of the world's valve-in-head leader, "Turbo-Fire" V8 with 162 or 180 h.p. Super-efficient 8 to 1 compression ratio, wear-reducing oversquare cylinders, fuel-saving high turbulence combustion chambers — plus many more engineering advances enable "Turbo-Fire" to outperform other engines with higher power ratings.



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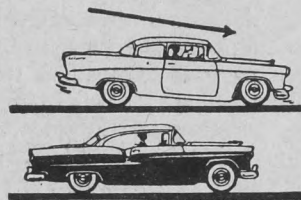
Fast starts in cold weather! Surer ignition for high speeds! Reserve power for automatic equipment! These are a few of the reasons why you should be sure you get a 12 volt battery. No car is up-to-date without this most important feature!

*\*Optional at extra cost*



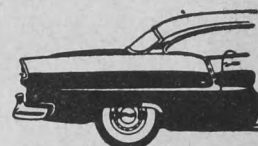
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# Under the Peace Tower

by HUGH BOYD

WHEN the Canadian Horticultural Council held its 33rd annual meeting in Ottawa last month—the 33rd at which Mr. L. F. Burrows has presented his report as secretary—it covered, as usual, the great range of subject matter that concerns such a many-sided industry. The Council represents numerous associations of fruit and vegetable growers, shippers, wholesalers, processors, package manufacturers, florists, nurserymen, and also representatives of the federal and provincial departments of agriculture.

For a good many years a prominent member of the governmental group has been Mr. M. B. Davis. He has just retired as Dominion horticulturist, and so, as luncheon guest speaker, was able to throw off all former official anxieties and just reminisce out of his very considerable store of experience.

Once again the dominant interest of the meeting as a whole was in the matter of markets, and particularly of the home market for fruits and vegetables. This involves tariffs. It was plain from the discussions that a large section of the horticulture industry feels it is losing ground. It has felt that way for some time, but it might be said of the 1955 meeting of the Council that never before had there been manifest such an insistent demand from the growers for protection by way of tariffs.

They took their story, by way of a special delegation representing growers from coast to coast, to Mr. Walter Harris, the minister of finance. They told him, in effect, that Canadian horticulturists don't believe in high protection, but that they want international trade in their products to be something other than the one-sided deal they consider it to be at present.

TO mention two of the delegation's arguments: Potatoes come into Canada duty-free, except for six weeks of the year when a minor tariff applies, while the United States imposes a duty of 75 cents a hundredweight the year around, except for a small quota of Canadian potatoes, on which half the rate applies. This, the Council suggested to Mr. Harris, is a lopsided arrangement.

It brought up, too, the matter of fruit cocktails, which has been dealt with somewhat derisively by many sections of the press, but which has few humorous aspects for the horticulturists. The point here is that so-called fruit cocktails, with a peach content of some 60 per cent, have become a significant import item in recent years. In 1953 imports amounted to 36 million pounds.

Last year the Horticultural Council and the Department of National Revenue were allies in an attempt to persuade the Tariff Board that fruit cocktails should be classified as peaches for duty purposes, thus carrying a tariff of two and one-half cents instead of a cent a pound. They failed. Then the Council appealed to the courts, but could not manage to have their case heard. Thus the matter rests. The annual meeting of delegates, however,



urged that the tariff item should be re-written nearer to their hearts' desire.

In the way of these proposals—perhaps—stands the Canadian government's over-all policy on trade, which has necessarily to take into account the position of all sorts of national industries, including those of other forms of agriculture; and not least, the business of grain growing. All this has been the subject of complex negotiations at Geneva for months past, in connection with a renewed and revised General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. In these negotiations Canada has already made its position clear. Our government wants a greater freedom of trade and a tightening of the escape clauses that have weakened GATT heretofore.

Be this as it may, the horticulturists took the position—and so informed the finance minister—that the present seasonal duty on fruits and vegetables does not give enough protection to Canadian growers who are being severely hit, in many instances, by imports from the United States. One resolution urged that the entire tariff structure should be overhauled, to provide higher rates of duty on imported produce during the domestic growing season, in exchange for tariff concessions during the winter months.

Discussions during the three-day meeting, however, showed that the Horticultural Council is by no means disposed to rely on tariff assistance alone. The delegates laid considerable stress on the bringing down of costs of production and distribution. Their interest in improved merchandising and packaging techniques, and in research, might well do more for the industry in the long run, than dependence on the tariff

**To Save the Soil.** In the United States, the Izaak Walton League consisting of "defenders of soil, woods, waters and wildlife," have proposed, as a plan for eventually eliminating farm price supports, that the government take 60,000,000 acres of land out of cultivation. This would, it is believed, bring farm production into line with consumer demand. It would include 12,000,000 acres in the "Dust Bowl" in the southwest, and the whole project would cost the Federal government \$450,000,000 annually. The proposal has some similarity to the "Soil Bank" proposed by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

15

## New Idea-Horn Loader ...too useful to take off

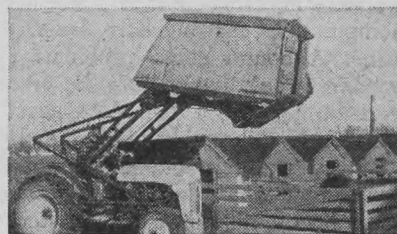


**"50" LOADER** with buck rake attachment. Lowest cost way to handle hay. Also carries 10 to 15 bales at a time. Mechanical trip for dumping. Loader available with single or double ram cylinders. (New low price on single ram cylinder model). Fits row crop tractors. Conversion model for tractors with adjustable front wheels. Up to 2,500 lbs. breakaway power.

**"LS" LOADER** with stacker attachment. Bucks and stacks up to 1000 lbs. Unloading gate hydraulically operated by driver. Loader fits large tractors with non-adjustable front and rear wheels. Extra wide and standard models. Displacement type, single ram cylinders. Like the "50", breakaway power up to 2,500 lbs. Works with "built in" or NEW IDEA-Horn hydraulic power unit.



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**"505" LOADER** for small row crop (with or without adjustable front wheels), small standard, and small track-type tractors. Cylinder support-shaft lets loader lift more weight with less strain on tractor. Up to 1,600 lbs. breakaway power.



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### 6 OF 10 EASY-ON INTERCHANGEABLE ATTACHMENTS



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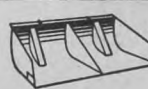
**EXTENDIBLE BOOM.** Lifts from 14 to 20 ft. Handles 1000 lb. loads on "50" and "LS" loaders, slightly less on "505".



**GRAPPLE FORK.** Ideal for loading and unloading loose or baled hay, piling brush, etc.



**DIRT BUCKET.** Made of 3/16" floor plate. Reversible cutting edge. 6 or 9 1/2 cu. ft. sizes.



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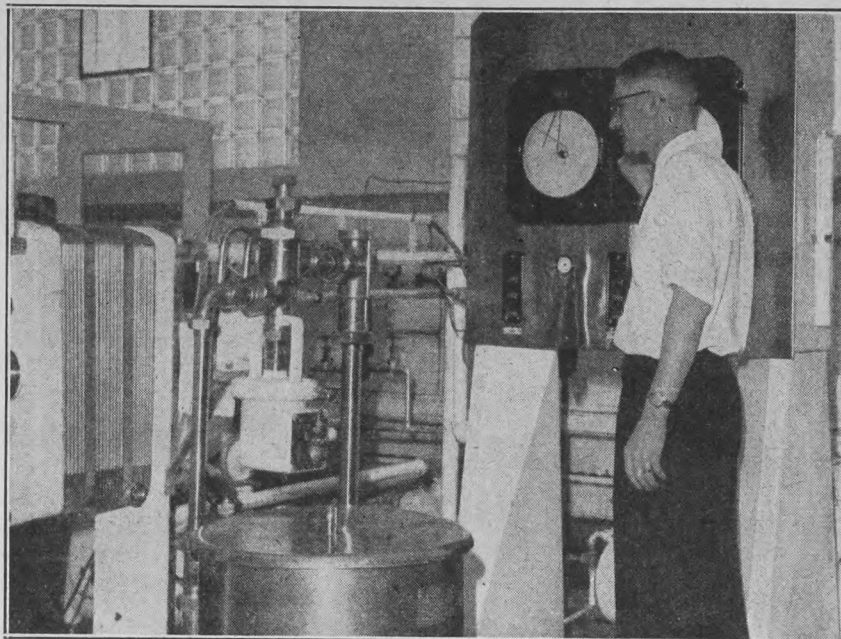
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## NEWS OF AGRICULTURE



Dr. D. L. Gibson, University of Saskatchewan dairy department, at controls of high temperature, short-time pasteurization unit.

### Dairy Researchers Busy at Saskatoon

DAIRY researchers at the University of Saskatchewan are working on several projects that will benefit both the consumer and the dairy industry. Among them are a new method of pasteurizing fluid milk which will enable it to be kept for relatively long periods without refrigeration, a project to improve the eating qualities of ice cream, and an instantly soluble non-fat milk powder for the Armed Forces. In addition to this, they are testing a 500-pound capacity Danish stainless steel butter churn, which looks promising for use in the dairy industry here.

The milk pasteurizing process involves subjecting milk to a very high temperature for a short length of time. Although some problems still remain to be solved before the process can be termed a complete success, Dr. D. L. Gibson, head of the dairy department, feels the time is not too far distant when dairies will produce a bottle of milk that can be stacked on the grocery store shelf along with the canned beans or soup. While in the United States last fall, he tasted some milk treated by researchers there which had been held in an ordinary household refrigerator for five months; except for a slightly stale flavor, the milk was quite good.

The ice cream project has been under way for a year, and is the largest of its kind in Canada. Professor R. W. Brown, retired dairy head of the University of Manitoba, is in charge of this investigation which seeks to increase the solid content, and improve the texture of Canadian ice cream. Two more years' research will be required before his work is completed, but its success is practically ensured.—C.V.F.

### Dumping Threat

ONCE again United States representatives at Geneva, trying to negotiate an improved General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, have been handicapped by the utterances of locally minded politicians at home.

While the former have been attempting to persuade other countries that the United States will not dump its farm surpluses, a majority of the 50-member House Appropriations Committee recommended that the country embark on an out-and-out dumping operation to get rid of these surpluses on foreign markets. It was strongly urged that the U.S. government institute a system of periodic auctions to sell farm surpluses to the highest bidders among American exporters, although it is well known that this course would break world prices. The recommendation carried no force of law, it is true, but it does give a strong indication of U.S. Congressional thinking—a glimpse of the Damoclean sword which hangs over the heads of all exporting nations, Canada included.

### American Turkey Prospects

THE report that American turkey men plan to reduce turkey numbers four per cent this year from production figures for last year might mean a lower volume of imports to compete with Canadian growers. However, the number of turkeys raised across the line in 1954 was two per cent higher than January intentions last year because turkey and feed prices remained close to a profitable level throughout the main hatching season. Similarly, the number of turkeys actually raised this year might vary from the amount planned at the present time. The price of feed, the supply, plus the prices of hatching eggs and poults, and the sale of turkeys still remaining in growers' hands, will decide the issue.

The greatest reductions are planned in light breed turkeys, production of bronze and other heavy breeds is expected to be about the same as last year. Growers in the western States, the largest commercial producing area, expect to decrease heavy breed birds by four per cent and light breeds by eight per cent, a five per cent total decrease. The biggest decreases (up to 14 per cent) are planned for the South Atlantic States. Less promising, from the standpoint of growers on the Canadian prairies, is the fact that

turkey men in the West North Central States—directly below them—plan a 14 per cent increase in heavy breed birds. While it is true that the same sector also plans a decrease of 21 per cent in light breed birds, there will still be an over-all increase in turkey production there of three per cent because the latter is predominantly a heavy breed area. Any increase over the record crop of turkeys which was produced in 1954, so conveniently located to the Canadian prairie market, would suggest that a goodly number of heavy-type birds will again find their way over the border during the 1955 festive season.

### Change in Seed Fair Rules

REGULATIONS governing the Saskatchewan Provincial Seed Fair have been changed so the fair will serve a more useful role in crop improvement. Main objection to the present set-up is that samples exhibited are hand picked and often bear little relationship to the kind of seed a farmer may secure. The new regulations will be applied at the 1956 seed fair to be held in Saskatoon next January during University Farm and Home Week, and will require that all grain samples exhibited be from field inspected crops. Exhibitors will need to have at least 100 bushels of cleaned seed from their crop, and will not be allowed to do any handpicking or polishing of the exhibit sample. This will be avoided by having an impartial official draw the sample from the large seed lot, who will then forward it directly to the seed fair. In forage seed exhibits, the sample doesn't necessarily have to be from a field inspected crop, but the exhibitor must have a minimum of 500 pounds of cleaned seed to qualify. Seed growers wishing to enter the fair should get in touch with an inspector of the federal Plant Products Division, an Agricultural Representative, or any experimental station official, to have a seed sample drawn.

### Appointments And Retirements

THE University of British Columbia has announced the establishment of three new divisions within the Faculty of Agriculture. A division of animal science, headed by Dean Blythe M. Eagles, will incorporate the old animal husbandry and dairying departments; former departments of agronomy and horticulture will be merged in the new plant science division, under Dr. V. C. Brink, and a new soil science division will be headed by Dr. D. G. Laird. Dr. C. D. MacKenzie, Glen Valley farmer and former research officer with the Canada Department of Agriculture, has accepted a professorship with the animal science division.



M. B. Davis

Retiring after 40 years' service with the Canada Department of Agriculture are Malcolm B. Davis, Chief of the Horticultural Division, Central Experi-



## NEWS OF AGRICULTURE

mental Farm, and W. Russell White, Chief of the Plant Products Division, Production Service, Ottawa.

Mr. Davis has directed Federal horticultural experimental work across Canada, and through plant breeding and selection, has originated new varieties of apples, strawberries, and raspberries which are now widely grown in this country. He established the first experimental cold storage unit in Canada in 1931, and took a leading part in perfecting methods of dehydrating vegetables for use by the Allied Forces during the last war. Mr. White's duties concerned the administration of Acts dealing with farm supplies, such as seeds, fertilizers, and feeds.



W. R. White

Announcement has been made of the appointment of S. J. Chagnon, Vice-Chairman of the Agricultural Prices Support Board, to the post of Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture. He succeeds Dr. J. G. Bouchard who retired recently after 15 years' service. Mr. Chagnon was born at St. Jean Baptiste, Rouville County, P. Q., graduated from Iowa State College with the degree of M.Sc. in 1925, and joined



S. J. Chagnon



J. G. Bouchard

the staff of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, soon after as Assistant Animal Husbandman.

In the Health of Animals Division, Dr. Kenneth F. Wells has been named Veterinary Director General following the retirement of Dr. Thos. Childs. Dr. Wells was born at Swan River, Manitoba, and graduated from the University of Toronto in 1938. He joined the Department as a veterinary inspector in September, 1939, and became Assistant Veterinary Director General in July, 1954. V



K. F. Wells



Thos. Childs

### Varying Wheat Prices

OFFICIAL wheat prices vary widely in different parts of the world. Chile appears to have set a new high with a producer ceiling price for the 1954-55 crop of \$4.50 (U.S.) per bushel. This is 52 per cent above last

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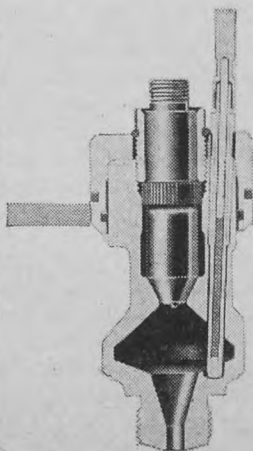
Mr. Oldham's success with his CAT\* D4 Tractor is not exceptional. When a Cat Diesel Tractor replaces a wheel tractor of similar "rated" horsepower, there's an amazing change: You save 50% to 70% on your fuel costs. Labor requirements are often cut in half. You'll do so many jobs you never could before: work in marshes, up hills, through rocks and stumps; clear land, fill gullies, build

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## NEWS OF AGRICULTURE

season's rate, but a good deal less than the \$6.18 (U.S.) a bushel asked by the Chilean Wheat Producers' Association. In contrast, the producer price for Uruguay remains the same as last year at \$2.96 (U.S.) per bushel.

Across the Atlantic, France has taken a major step to tighten price support operations for the 1955 wheat crop by placing a ceiling on the total quantity of wheat that can be granted a guaranteed price, and by establishing rigid quality standards. French farmers are now given a basic price of \$2.64 (U.S.) per bushel, although the world price is only about \$1.70. Under the new regulations, the maximum amount of wheat from any one crop which can be marketed under the guaranteed price is 6.8 million tons, and it must be top grade. In Great Britain, farmers will continue to receive deficiency payments for the 1955-56 crop equal to the difference between the market price and the officially fixed "cost of production" price; payments are currently about 69 cents (U.S.) per bushel. One of the lowest fixed wheat prices is that of New Zealand, which is retaining last season's price of \$1.59 (U.S.) a bushel for the 1954-55 crop. V

### Disastrous British Harvest

BRITISH farmers fought stubbornly throughout 1954 against agriculture's age-old foe, adverse weather conditions. At year's end they could only lick their wounds and write off

the harvest as one of the most disastrous they had experienced. The enemy used just about every foul trick in the book. As soon as farmers turned their stock out to grass in the early spring, Britain was hit by drought, low temperatures, and cold winds, which lasted for several weeks. Grass became scarce, and the germination of spring-sown grain and root crops was greatly delayed. Then as haying time approached, the rains came, and they came in real earnest. In many parts of the country thousands of acres of hay had to be abandoned as a dead loss. The wet weather encouraged long, sappy stalk growth in the cereal crops, then as harvest time approached, levelled the fields with high winds and driving rain. Thousands of Britain's 21,000 combines were bogged helplessly in the mud, and even where they could salvage a badly laid crop, farmers lacked the means of drying and storing the sodden grain, so it was all dumped on the market at the same time. Hay, corn, cereal, and potato harvest times were badly overlapped, creating an acute farm labor problem, and with the approach of fall, flooding streams added to the chaos. By mid-November nearly 20,000 acres of grain were still uncut, thousands of acres more lay stooked in the wet fields, and thousands of acres of potatoes lay under water. Partial loss of the sugar beet crop accentuated the critical winter feed shortage, which amounted to a famine, by cutting supplies of beet pulp. Truly, in 1954, farming in Britain was more of a "way of life" than a living. V

### Get It At a Glance

*A look at agriculture at home and abroad*

British bacon has not been receiving first demand of that country's housewives because it has not been uniform in quality. The National Pig Breeders' Association has recommended a new hog-grading system and increased advertising to overcome this deficiency. V

Creamery butter production for Saskatchewan in 1954 reached a total of 26,759,687 pounds, a drop of about a million pounds from that of the previous year. Since 1950, production has remained fairly stable at close to the 27-million-pound mark. V

A higher pork output and resultant lower prices are forecast for a number of the principal hog-producing countries this year. In 1954, a total of 5,078,715 hogs were slaughtered in Canada—an increase of 75,901 over 1953. V

The embargo on imports of Mexican cattle was lifted by the United States on January 1. Because of foot-and-mouth disease, the border has only been open to these imports for seven months during the last eight years. V

A shipment of boneless beef arrived in San Francisco from New Zealand recently. Although this had a duty of three cents per pound levied on it at time of arrival, it is expected to be offered on the U.S. market at prices considerably below that of the domestic product. V

Total Canadian honey crop for 1954 was 19.9 million pounds, a drop of 25 per cent over the previous year and the smallest crop since 1926. Ontario, Quebec, and the three prairie provinces accounted for 93 per cent of the total production. V

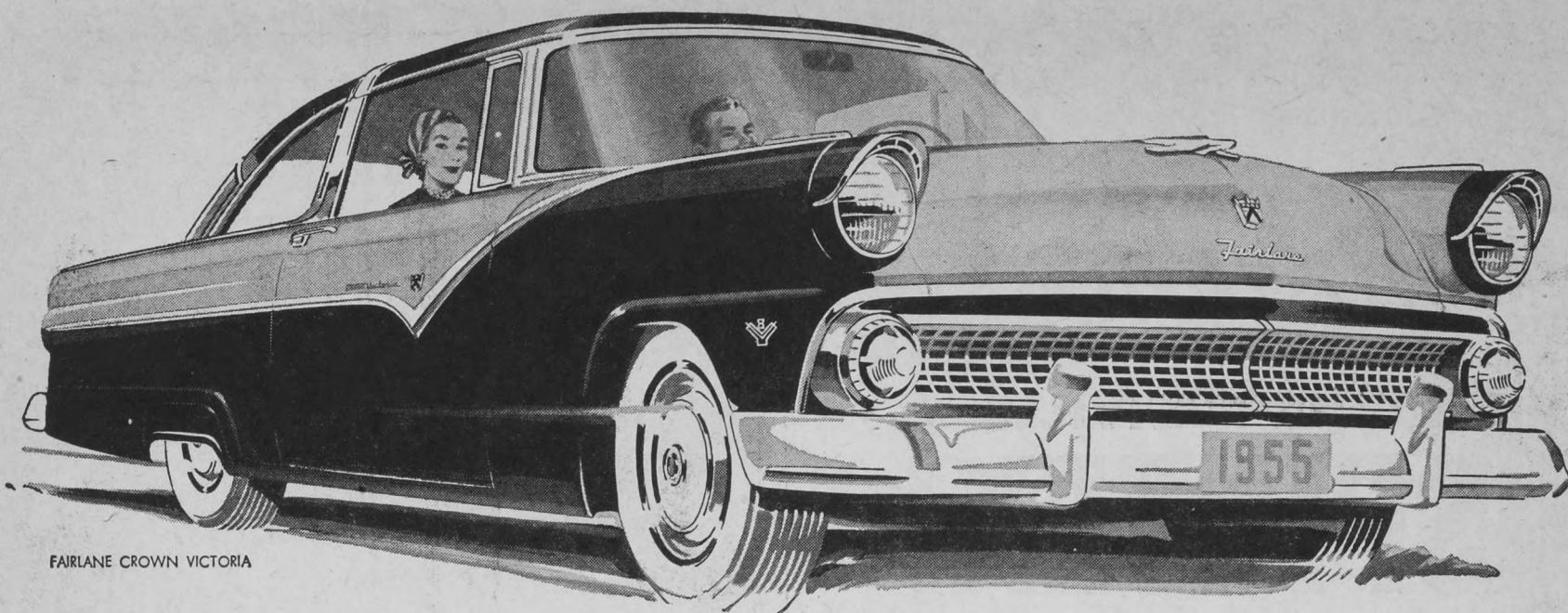
Atomic energy developments herald a revolution in agriculture, according to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. A rust-resistant strain of oats, new ways of fighting plant diseases and insects, and new fertilizers are among recent gains. One irradiation of tomato seedlings has been found to produce at least one generation of wilt-resistant plants. V

The Australian government has refused demands for subsidies for the dried fruit, egg, and pork industries because there is no lack of profitable opportunities in these fields if producers watch production costs. V

World wool production set a record last year with an estimated total of 4,430 million pounds. This is 70 million pounds more than 1953, and 500 million pounds above the prewar level. V

Farm price supports in the United States will see the 1955 oat crop subsidized at 61 cents a bushel for Grade No. 3 or better; barley at 94 cents a bushel for Grade No. 2 or better; and rye at \$1.18 a bushel for Grade No. 2 or better. V





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## LIVESTOCK



Changes have been made on the old homestead. Top, buildings in the present-day yard and, below, part of the purebred herd.

## Great-Grandfather Homesteaded Here

Now a fourth-generation Wilson raises quality livestock on the old Manitoba homestead

IN May of 1879, Great-grandfather Wilson crossed the Pembina River northwest of the present town of Pilot Mound, in southern Manitoba. His team of oxen struggled up the long slope of the west bank, and the one cow that he had brought with him, followed on behind. At the top of the bank he unloaded his wagons and, while great-grandmother prepared something to eat, he planned a home on his new and virgin prairie land.

Neither homestead nor home are any longer new, and the old folks have long since gone to their eternal rest; but other generations of Wilsons have lived on the original quarter ever since great-grandfather decided to homestead there.

No doubt the original cow and the team of oxen hungrily grazed the rich Pembina Valley meadows on the east side of the quarter. There was then no way of knowing that they, too, were the first of a long line to live in this part of the valley. The Wilson farm, however, has had cattle on it continuously since great-grandfather's single cow took up residence on that May day 76 years ago. In fact, the grade Shorthorn herd was large enough by 1905 to justify a 40 by 80-foot two-storey barn, on a hill overlooking the Pembina.

Three generations of Wilsons raised grade Shorthorns, but the fourth generation operator—Frank Wilson—completed the switch toward purebreds started by his father and brother when Frank was away in the service. "I have always liked cattle, and the better quality they are, the better I seem to like them," Frank told The Country Guide.

His father, brother and uncle all encouraged the switch. Though he has a mixture of rental agreement and partnership with his father, Ralph Wilson, Frank runs the farm. His father is in charge of P.F.A.A. administration for southern Manitoba, and is away much of the time. His brother, Jim, farms half-a-mile west, and has 20 head of mixed grades and purebreds. His uncle, Harvey Wilson,

who farms six and one-half miles north and west of the home place, at Glenora, has 30 head of purebred Shorthorns.

MOST of the cattle are owned in partnership. Frank and his brother Jim bought a purebred cow at the 1950 flood relief sale in Brandon, and the boys jointly own the cow and the four calves she has since dropped. Frank, his father and his Uncle Harvey own a bull together. Frank and his father are in a 50-50 partnership in the home herd.

"Cattle fit into my farm operations just about perfectly," said Frank. "They graze on the banks of the river and in the fence corners, and make use of land that would be waste. They make it profitable to grow alfalfa and grass, and they produce manure; both help me to maintain the fertility of the soil. Having cattle helps me to control soil erosion by using both hay and manure." He paused a moment. "I'd have to admit that they keep me interested in farming, too," he said. "I wouldn't want to farm without stock."

Frank aims his bull production at the commercial breeder. "All other things equal, most commercial breeders will go for animals without horns, so I raise polled stock," said Frank. "They don't like them too small, either, so I try to keep enough size in the herd. Of course, I must have quality, too."

Most of the calves dropped are short on horns and long on quality. Extra quality came into the herd from the high-priced, polled bull, Birmingham Scotsman Wanderer, the bull that Frank and his dad bought from Ben Franklin of Kingston, Ontario, in 1951. The calves after this good animal have done well on the Manitoba show circuit, and they are satisfied they made a wise buy.

The cattle aren't the only quality stock on the farm. The Wilsons, father and son, have bred Berkshire hogs for 25 years. They presently have three sows, and take two litters a year from each. A litter of nine that went to



## LIVESTOCK

market recently produced five Grade A carcasses. "We've received better grades with the Berks since rail grading started," commented Frank.

The chickens are not run-of-the-mill, either. The Wilsons buy 200 Manitoba Approved Rhode Island Red pullets and 25 R.O.P. cockerels every spring to produce hatching eggs. This used to be a project of Frank's mother, Mrs. Ralph Wilson, and still is to a considerable extent.

**Q**UANTITY production starts at the barnyard, but goes out to the fields. Last year Frank raised registered Rodney and Exeter oats, and Antelope rye, as well as Certified Selkirk wheat. He raised these quality crops on fields that are protected from erosion and freed of weeds, as a direct result of the livestock on the farm.

The procedure is no secret. The cattle must have hay and the only way to get hay, other than buying it, is to grow it. Frank doesn't buy any. The lighter land—two of the five quarters are sandy—he periodically seeds to a mixture of alfalfa, crested wheatgrass and brome. He may leave a field in grass for four or five years with the three-pronged purpose of growing hay, reducing soil erosion and improving the fertility of the fields.

Erosion is a continuing problem. If Frank uses surface implements the soil forms a hardpan at plow-sole depth. He is forced, therefore, to roll the soil over with a moldboard plow, and leave it with no protection from the wind. A year ago a ten-acre strip in an unprotected 40-acre field began to blow badly. Alfalfa had been plowed under the year before, so Frank went over the field with a duck-foot, and the fibrous alfalfa clods that he tore up immediately stopped the drifting.

For more permanent soil drifting control he has planted a row of trees across his lightest quarter. As the trees grow he looks to them to break the wind and help to hold the soil.

Frank is using his livestock to improve the soil in every possible way; and he has harvested measurable yield increases as a direct result of the cattle. A case in point was an infertile, alkali-spotted, 20-acre field into which he worked a full year's accumulation of manure. At the next seeding the field produced 38 bushels an acre, a large and profitable increase over the usual 15 bushels. The extra 460 bushels of wheat were cattle money.

Three generations of Wilsons have worked these fields and handed them on in a good state of fertility. If 35-year-old, bachelor Frank is as yet doing nothing about ensuring the existence of succeeding generations, at least brother Jim and his wife have two boys and two girls.

It is more than probable that the day will come when a Wilson of the next generation—the fifth—will be taking a long and eager look at great-grandfather's homestead.—R.H. v

## Swine Mange

**M**ANGE has recently been isolated in some western swine farm herds, and A. J. Charnetski, livestock supervisor, Alberta Department of Agriculture, urges pig owners to check their pigs for scurfiness, for unhealthy,



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## LIVESTOCK

scabby conditions about the pasterns and hocks, and for an undue amount of scratching and rubbing. He suggests that indications of any skin condition should be regarded suspiciously.

If mange is suspected a veterinarian should, if possible, be consulted. If that is impossible, the pigs should be treated with Lindane, at rates recommended by the manufacturer. V

### Easy Cleaning Of the Calf Pen

**C**LEANING calf pens with a pitchfork is still the most common procedure, but it is not the simplest. Nor, according to Stan Witzel, farm engineer at the University of Wisconsin, is it any longer necessary; a simpler and easier way exists.

Cleaning the pens at the University's farm dairy barn took too much time, so Witzel had the calf pen partitions cut off at the floor, put a double door in the side of the barn and brought in a tractor with a manure loader attached. He was well pleased with the speed with which this cleaned the pens.

Now, except for a permanent partition along the feed alley, all calf pen partitions in the barn are hung on chains from hooks in the ceiling. The movable partitions are snubbed with a piece of rope to the permanent partition and to the opposite wall, and so are held steady.

Twelve-inch concrete curbs around the pens hold the manure as it piles up. The partitions can be raised on chains as bedding is added. When the manure gets deep enough the movable partitions are swung to one side, the manure loader brought in, and the pens cleaned with a minimum of time and effort.

"Most farmers could fix their calf pens the same way, and save themselves a lot of hard work during the winter," says Stan Witzel. V

### Home-Made Loafing Barn and Parlor

**W**HEN the stanchion barn of Gerard Gauvin, in the mixed-farming district of St. Paul, Alberta, burned, he needed another dairy barn in a hurry. He settled on a loafing barn with milking parlor, as one that he could afford, and built it himself. Total cost, including milking machine, cream separator and a small stove, was about \$2,400. The barn itself is 75 feet long by 32 feet wide, and the milking parlor takes 20 feet off the end, leaving room for 15 or 20 cows, which is the size he has in mind for his herd of Guernseys. The new barn is a quonset-type, laminated-rafter building, with an 11-foot ceiling to provide cut-hay storage above. The hay is fed down into mangers along one side of the building. If further expansion is required, the feeding area can be moved outside, perhaps into an added lean-to, to leave more room for shelter within.

With 240 acres of grey transition soil, pigs and cattle are partner enterprises with the grain and hay; but since the only available market was for cream, costs had to be kept low. Thus, Mr. Gauvin built every bit of the barn himself. He drove stakes into

the ground to provide a frame for making the rafters, and glued the six one-inch by two-inch boards together to form each of them. He poured the cement foundation, and had a bee to erect the rafters. These he boarded over with rough lumber nailed on diagonally for additional strength (a difficult job he wouldn't repeat), and covered it with roofing paper.

The milking parlor platform was poured, too, and the three stalls were designed and built of lumber rather than steel. Now, he says, after using the building for a year, health of the cattle in the open barn is better, and chores are much simpler.—D.R.B. V

### Electric Fans For Barn Ventilation

**T**HE widespread electrification in western Canada makes possible improved winter ventilation of barns. Exhaust fans provide a positive method of ventilation which can be automatically controlled to maintain a desired barn temperature or humidity. During mild weather the fan will force the moist, warm air out of the barn, and in cold weather a thermostat will stop the fan and prevent chilling of the stable.

A fan capacity of 100 cubic feet per minute per 1,000 pounds of livestock will meet western Canadian needs. For example, if a barn held 36 cows, each weighing about 1,000 pounds, the fan capacity should be 3,600 cubic feet per minute. One fan could provide this capacity, but in barns with 50 head or more two fans are required for adequate ventilation.

Fans are normally located around the middle of the long wall. Fresh air inlets should be at least 15 feet from the fan. Automatic shutters are required to prevent back drafting when the fan is not operating.

The fan should be wired according to local electrical regulations. For direct drive units a 1,725 r.p.m. motor should be used. As a fire precaution the motor should be totally enclosed and the thermal overload protected. A reverse action thermostat, normally placed a foot below the ceiling in the middle of the stable, is required to control the exhaust fan.

Those planning to install fans might find the bulletin "Principle of Barn Ventilation" (Publication 859) very useful. The bulletin is obtainable from the Information Service, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. V

### Available Water Ups Gains

**C**ATTLE in North Dakota can walk off as much weight trailing to the water hole as they can in western Canada.

Fred Schmidt's cattle drank in one corner of his 480-acre pasture, until, co-operating with the East LaMoure County Soil Conservation District, he built a water dugout in the center of the pasture.

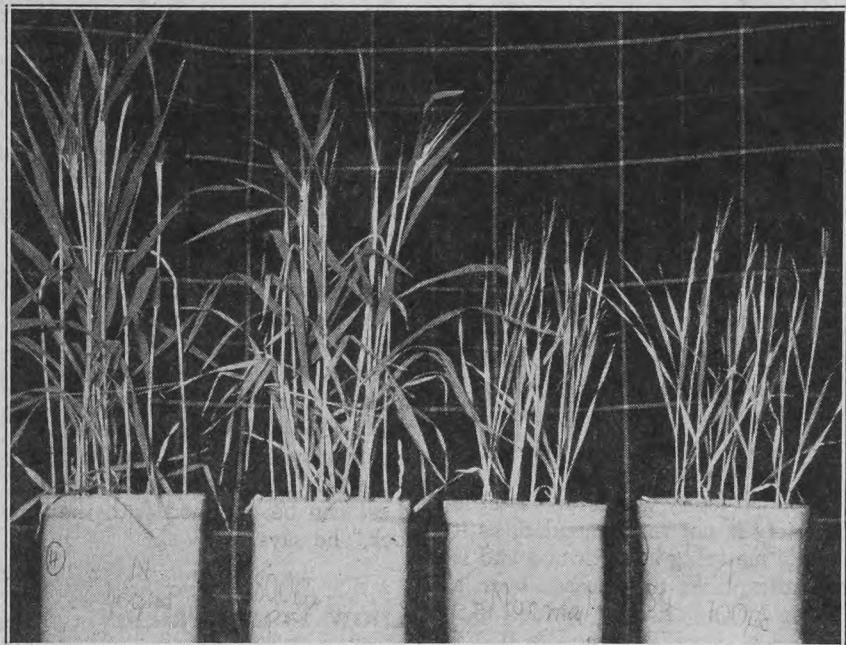
The effect on the cattle was measured. Schmidt found that his calves weighed 50 to 75 pounds more at the end of the season when water was readily available, than they had when water was not readily available. In addition to this, he is satisfied that the pasture is grazed more evenly. V



## FIELD

## Value for Fertilizer Dollars

*Balanced fertilizers, effectively used, may spell the end of summerfallowing*



L. to r.: Stubble land fertilized at 100 lbs. of nitrogen and 24 lbs. of phosphorus per acre; fallow with phosphorus alone, stubble with fertilizer added, stubble with phosphorus alone.

HOW would you like to crop all your land each year, instead of having half of it lying idle as summer-fallow? To save the labor and expense of cultivating that fallow land, and make it pay for its keep? Sounds like an invitation to disaster—a return to the old “soil mining” tactics that brought on the dust bowl days—but it isn’t. If fertilization tests on stubble land, conducted by Dr. John Mitchell’s Soils Department at the University of Saskatchewan, continue to give the same high yields they have given over the past two years, grain farmers may be able to safely discard their traditional two-year rotation practices in favor of continuous cropping.

Apart from the physical difficulties of seeding stubble land, that vary from year to year, the decomposing trash causes a build-up of soil organisms which consume nitrogen so there is not enough left for the crop. Both nitrogen and phosphorus must be applied, and they must be in the right ratio to one another before the nitrogen can be fully used by the growing plants. The correct balance of these products will vary from 1:1 (N to P) to 2:1, depending on the particular soil and area. Using the proper ratio also cuts down on the quantity of both fertilizers needed, which in turn, reduces costs.

The value of applying the two fertilizers in the right balance, and their dependence on one another, was demonstrated in Soils Department field tests under the direction of Dr. D. A. Rennie. Production of one wheat field was raised from seven or eight bushels to 25 bushels per acre by applying nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers at the rate of 125 pounds and 40 pounds to the acre, respectively. On one of the black soils, a normal yield of 20 bushels per acre was raised to 40 bushels per acre by the same method. On the other hand, heavy applications of either ammonium nitrate or am-

monium sulphate, without the phosphorus, increased yields by only about eight bushels an acre.

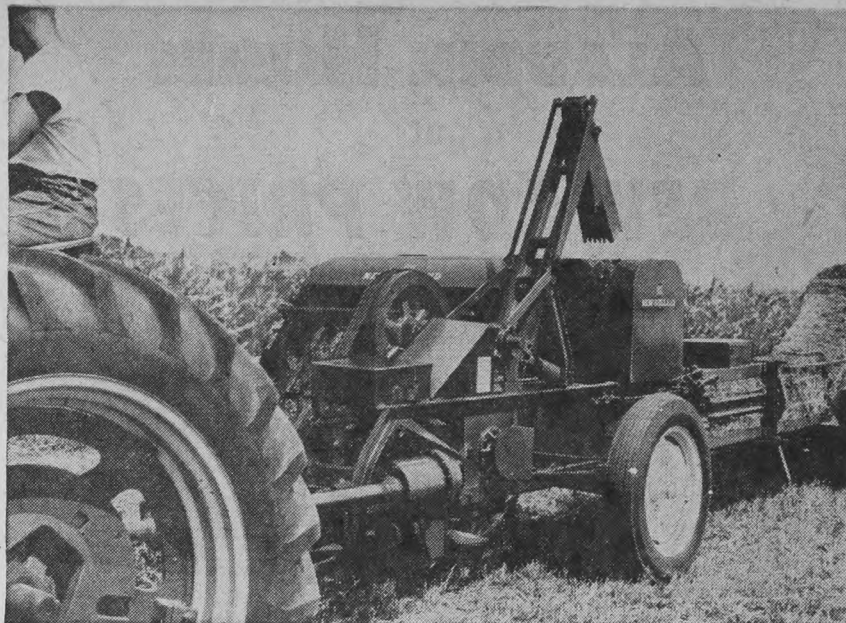
The fertilizers can be applied as a mixture drilled in with the seed in the spring, at a cost of from \$4 to \$5 per acre. But the best way is to top-dress the fields with nitrogen as a separate operation, and then apply the phosphorus with the seed, in spite of the fact that this increases costs to \$7 or \$8 per acre. The extra cost is well justified by heavier yields. Main reason for this is that a lower concentration of fertilizer with the seed decreases the chances of any harmful effects. Nitrogen fertilizers are more toxic than phosphorus compounds, therefore seed germination is liable to be more complete when the former is applied separately.

Fields can be top-dressed with nitrogen in either the fall or spring. A lime spreader will do the trick. Spring applications can be made while the land is still too wet to cultivate, and is considered to be more economical than fall applications because, in the latter, a certain amount of nitrogen would be lost during the winter months.

The Department is not recommending continuous cropping, but their fertilization tests on stubble land have proved successful enough to date for them to suggest that farmers try it in a small way for themselves—especially those on the black, and grey soils of northeastern Saskatchewan.—C.V.F. V

### Flax Varieties For Manitoba

ONLY five flax varieties were recommended for growing in Manitoba at the recent Manitoba Agronomists Convention. Two of these varieties are late maturing and are recommended for early seeding and three are early maturing and so may be seeded later in the season.



One man can attach the new “Super 77” P.T.O. to a tractor in seconds. No tools needed.

## New! The fastest P.T.O. baler you can buy!

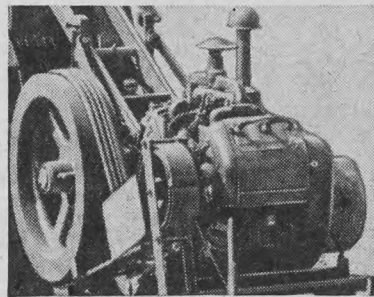
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55-5

### FIELD

The early maturing group includes Raja, Marine and Sheyenne, all of which are rust resistant. Raja, a new variety licensed in 1954, is similar in maturity to Marine and Sheyenne and equal in disease resistance with Redwood. These three varieties are eight to ten days earlier than Redwood or Rocket, but lack the yielding ability of Redwood, especially for early seeding.

Marine seed is light colored and so tends to show seed discoloration more readily than darker, brown seeded varieties. Sheyenne is similar in disease resistance and yield to Raja and Marine, but its small seed size makes it difficult to clean out weed seeds. Raja seed will be limited this spring, but should be readily available in 1956.

Over a five-year period at the Experimental Station, Morden, Manitoba, Redwood has averaged 3.7 bushels per acre over its nearest rival, Rocket.

The new Victory which replaced the old variety is not recommended, as it is as late maturing as Redwood and is more susceptible to disease; over a five-year period it has yielded 5.2 bushels less than Redwood and 1.5 bushels less than Rocket.

### Getting the Best From Barnyard Manure

IT has been known for a long time that barnyard manure will improve the fertility of fields to which it is applied. Not so widely known, no doubt, is that there is a right and a wrong way of applying manure. Yet, according to A. C. Wilton, Experimental Station, Prince George, B.C., this is the case.

On the basis of work completed Wilton has concluded that plowing down manure reduces, or at least delays, the benefits accruing from manure application. "The plow deposits it on the cold, poorly aerated, plow sole, practically no decomposition takes place, and nutrients are unavailable until the land is replowed and worked," he says. In the interval nutrients will have been lost.

Manure must decompose before the nutrients it contains are available to aid plant growth. Decomposition will only take place when moisture, warmth and air are in abundant supply, and bacteria immediately responsible for decomposition are active. This situation normally exists on or near the surface of a soil; it does not exist far below the soil surface, particularly if the soil is heavy and cold, or if summer temperatures are low.

### Saunders Wheat Improved

RECENT tests in the Peace River region indicate that the foundation stock of Saunders wheat produced in 1952 is superior in yield to the original certified stock that has been distributed since the variety was licensed in 1947. The yield difference is particularly noticeable on grey-wooded soils.

During the past two years ten tests have been conducted on degraded

black soils and the foundation stock has given an average yield of 42.1 bushels per acre, compared with 41.2 bushels for the certified stock. On grey-wooded soils the foundation stock has averaged 33.6 bushels and the certified 30.9; the increase has been consistent at all locations, and has ranged from 1.4 to 3.4 bushels per acre.

The foundation stock appears similar to the certified in height, resistance to lodging, kernel characteristics, and the number of days required for the crop to reach maturity.

A. A. Guitard of the Experimental Station at Beaverlodge, Alberta, the man who has been making the tests, reports that henceforth only seed of this most recent foundation stock of Saunders will be distributed by the Experimental Station. He suggests that elite stock producers who do not have this new stock should obtain it, and that commercial growers secure at least a few bushels of registered seed of this new stock of Saunders for a seed plot. "Best results with Saunders wheat can be obtained with the new stock," he says.

### Know Your Prairie Poison Plants

MANY countries of the world have a variety of species of poisonous snakes and insects, and highly dangerous animals, and casualties in farm flocks and herds may be frequent and expected. Western Canadian livestock are not faced with many such hazards, but they do, in some areas, face the hazards of poisonous plants.

There are about a dozen harmful prairie plants but only three of these take much of a toll of a farmer's and rancher's stock. The three plants are Seaside arrowgrass, Death camas and low larkspur. The first of these is a common plant of slough margins, the second an early summer species of hillsides and meadows and the last an early season flower of grasslands of the Cypress Hills and the Foothills country.

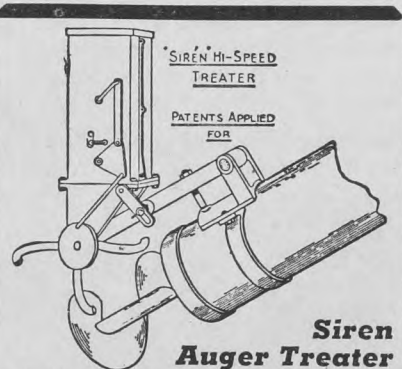
These three plants, which account for the majority of cases of livestock poisoning, are quite easily recognized, and reasonable precautions will eliminate most stock losses that are due to them.

The Experimental Station, Swift Current, Sask., has prepared an illustrated 27-page bulletin "Poisonous Plants of the Canadian Prairies" (Publication No. 900) which they will send without charge to anyone who writes. The booklet describes the poisonous plants and tells how to treat poisoned animals.

### Should Seed Be Treated?

TREATMENT with a mercuric fungicide is a precaution that is potentially so valuable and costs relatively so little that farmers can well justify treating all of their seed grain," the Plant Science Department, University of Manitoba, told The Country Guide.

Seed treatment with a mercuric fungicide is more than treatment against smut; it will control most seed-



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Fits all grain loaders including the Baby Loaders.  
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**Mr. Farmer! YOU NEED** this treater to start your crops right; especially this year with the seed poor and many diseases waiting in the soil.

A PROPERLY applied good powder dressing: (1) Checks the microbes on the seed coat; AND (2) The powder seals the skin cracks and covers the bruises preventing infections from entering; (3) The powder on the seed helps check root worms, common rot, root rot, etc.

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## FIELD

borne disease organisms, including root-rot. In the case of lightly frozen grain, mercuric treatment is reported to improve germination.

The true loose smuts are not controlled by fungicide treatments. Resistant varieties of wheat can be grown, as all the recommended varieties, with the exception of Lee and Lake, are resistant to true covered smut.

Cold water treatment is recommended for control of true loose smut of barley. In work done by Dr. L. E. Tyner, Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Canada Department of Agriculture, Edmonton, seed immersed in water at 72° F., or slightly higher, for a period of 72 hours, was completely freed from true loose smut. ✓

### You Can Control Wild Oats

by L. H. SHEBESKI

### Seed Selection

**I**N this column in October, fall cultivation of wild oats-infested land was discussed.

The job for March is the selection of a crop and the acquisition of seed. Barley is the best crop to grow when seeding is to be delayed. Better varieties of barley for late seeding are needed and are being bred, but in the meantime varieties recommended for late seeding in Alberta are Olli and Gateway, for Saskatchewan, Warrior, and for Manitoba, Cartons. Cartons is the only one of these barleys that is rust-resistant so, in spite of its relatively weak straw, it should be used in Manitoba.

It should be clear that these are early maturing barleys, and they are not necessarily recommended for other than delayed seeding.

Stocks of phosphate fertilizers should be bought. For summerfallow 11-48-0 is recommended and for stubble 16-20-0. The use of fertilizers will shorten the period to maturity, and will also permit the barley to compete with any wild oats that does sprout in the crop.

The use of an early maturing barley is important. Next month, in this column, delayed seeding will be recommended and, for this late seeding, an early maturing barley will run less risk of fall frost damage. Also, it should ripen before any wild oats that does appear in the crop has shattered.

A final chore for March and early April is cleaning the seed. It is assumed that no wild oats seed will be allowed to find its way into the drill box.

(Wild oats control is becoming an increasingly important problem. For this reason, The Country Guide has invited Professor L. H. Shebeski, head of the Plant Science Department of the University of Manitoba, to provide our readers with suggestions, from time to time, for the control of this costly weed. Each article will be short and practicable; and the suggestions offered will be sufficiently timely to permit of immediate use.—ed.) ✓



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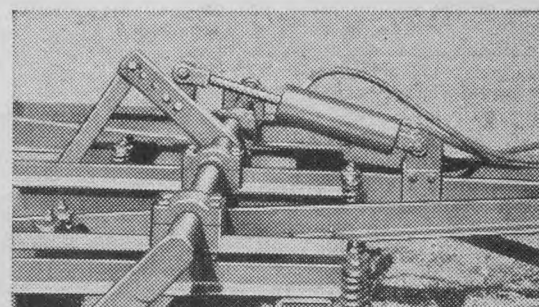
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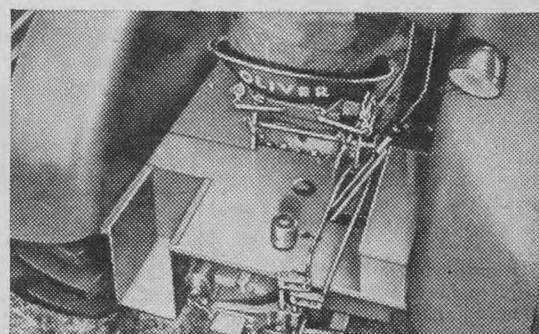
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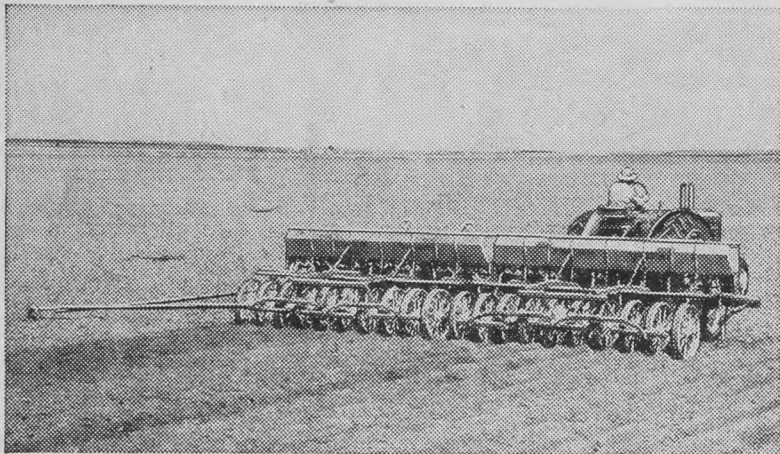
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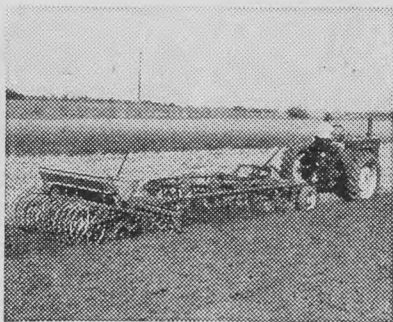
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## HORTICULTURE



Miss Daisy Patmore, Brandon, demonstrating flower arrangement to members of the Manitoba Horticultural Association last month, in Winnipeg.

## Horticulturists Meet at Banff

*Eleventh annual meeting of the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture*

**I**F the plans made at the conclusion of the eleventh annual meeting of the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture materialize, the next annual meeting of the Society will attempt to assess the progress made so far in the development of prairie horticulture. The annual meeting of the W.C.S.H. is held in each of the prairie provinces, in turn. This year it took place at the School of Fine Arts, Banff, Alberta. This very fine institution is an offshoot of the University of Alberta, and is under the direction of Donald Cameron, director of extension at the University, to whose energy, vision and persistence the Banff School of Fine Arts is very largely due. In 1956, the Society will meet in Manitoba.

Unlike the horticultural societies that have been organized in each province, which are composed largely of commercial and amateur gardeners, active members of the Western Canadian Society of Horticulture are almost entirely professional horticulturists. They work for our provincial and federal departments of agriculture, or our universities, as teachers, extension workers, plant breeders, experimenters, inspectors, or as specialists in the production of fruits, vegetables and ornamentals. Of the total membership, a little more than a third are associate members. These are principally growers, nurserymen and representatives of commercial companies, who may serve horticulture in some manner.

The most important work of an annual meeting of such a society is done in committees, of which a dozen or more in the W.C.S.H. are concerned directly with various aspects of horticultural work, such as fruits, potatoes, ornamentals, hardiness research, vegetable processing, the nursery and seed trade, nutrition and chlorosis (yellowing), and so on. It is in these committees that members meet with others in the same field of work and exchange views, as well as the results of work done during the year. The reports of

these committees presented to the general meeting are, therefore, the considered opinions of groups of specialists.

**F**ROM this point of view the Banff meeting was better than any that had gone before, because more time had been provided for the committees to thoroughly review their problems and work. Any gardener who has tried to produce fruit, flowers or ornamentals in the prairie provinces knows that there are many such problems.

Take hardiness, for example. What makes a woody plant hardy or tender? If winter hardiness is involved, does a hardy plant mature more rapidly than a tender plant in the fall? Is its bark thicker? If a plant is tender, does the actual cold kill it, or does it die because it dries out more readily in cold, dry, winter air? These and scores of other questions confront the research worker who tackles this problem. Perhaps, some time, science will be able to produce hardy varieties of individual species of woody plants to order, but we are a long way from this point as yet.

It would be interesting if one could know how much of all scientific work is based on the single word, "why." Why is it so difficult, for example, to get a hardy variety which, at the same time, bears large fruits? Is it a fundamental fact of nature that large fruits must have a longer season in which to mature, than smaller fruits? If so,—as the shorter season required by our so-called small fruits seems to suggest,—how far north can we eventually hope to grow a three-inch apple satisfactorily? Several such varieties have been produced at Morden, but Morden is not Winnipeg, nor Saskatoon, nor Edmonton, nor the Peace River area. What then, is the position of the breeder of fruits, vegetables or ornamentals, in relation to hardiness on the prairies; and can the plant breeder hope to reduce the ele-



## HORTICULTURE

ment of chance, which now governs his results to so great an extent?

In another direction, how can the adaptability of horticultural varieties over large areas be reliably tested, in the face of such climatic conditions as were experienced last year when the vagaries of nature seemed to be more in evidence than ever? Those who were concerned with the official prairie vegetable variety trials last year were disappointed with the results, to say the least.

**P**RAIRIE tree planting is a subject of much interest to members of the W.C.S.H. Interest appears to be growing. Questionnaires to the number of over two hundred received from farmers by provincial departments of agriculture seemed to indicate a very general satisfaction on the part of those who have planted field shelterbelts or roadside shelterbelts. The majority clearly indicate not only that yield has increased somewhat, but that wind and water erosion have decreased, especially the former, and snow accumulation is greater.

In addition to fundamental problems of environment, breeding or nutrition, one or two specific problems of continuing interest to the Society received considerable attention at Banff. Several years ago the Society was instrumental in helping to bring about a co-operative fruit breeding program, in which several institutions are involved, including the experimental station at Morden, and the universities of Saskatchewan and Alberta. The Society has asked for a critical review and assessment of this program at its next meeting.

The potato industry, too, is important in several prairie areas, and in such areas the availability of suitable varieties is a primary need. The Society has now set up a special standing committee to watch over and co-ordinate developments in this field; and has also instituted a program of prairie regional potato trials which will be co-ordinated with the National Potato Trials. The headquarters for the National Trials are at the Federal Experimental Station at Fredericton, New Brunswick, and administration is from the Division of Horticulture, Experimental Farms Service, Ottawa.

All of this and much more that could be written is intended only to indicate that the problems of the fruit grower, the vegetable gardener, the owner of shelterbelts and the lover of flowers and ornamentals are being tackled on the prairies with enthusiasm, by those whose duty it is to do this. It is understandable, however, that the lack of sufficient time, money and land, as well as minds and hands, is in most cases a deterrent to the more rapid progress that horticulturists would like to see.

"The increase of knowledge increases sorrow," said Ecclesiasticus. Perhaps this might apply to the H-bomb and some kinds of knowledge, but members of the W.C.S.H. would not agree that bringing utility, beauty, comfort and pleasure to farm homes through the agency of horticulture, could contribute much to the world's store of sorrow. At any rate, the search for new horticultural knowledge will continue unabated on the prairies during 1955.—H.S.F.

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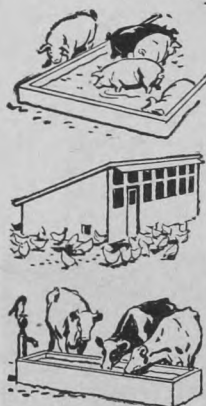
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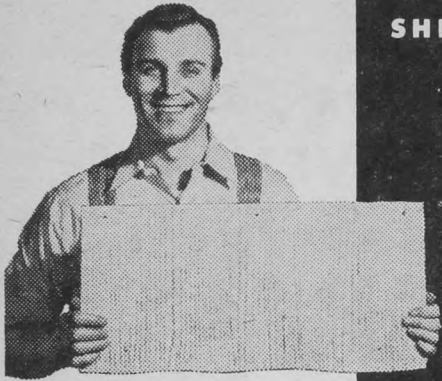
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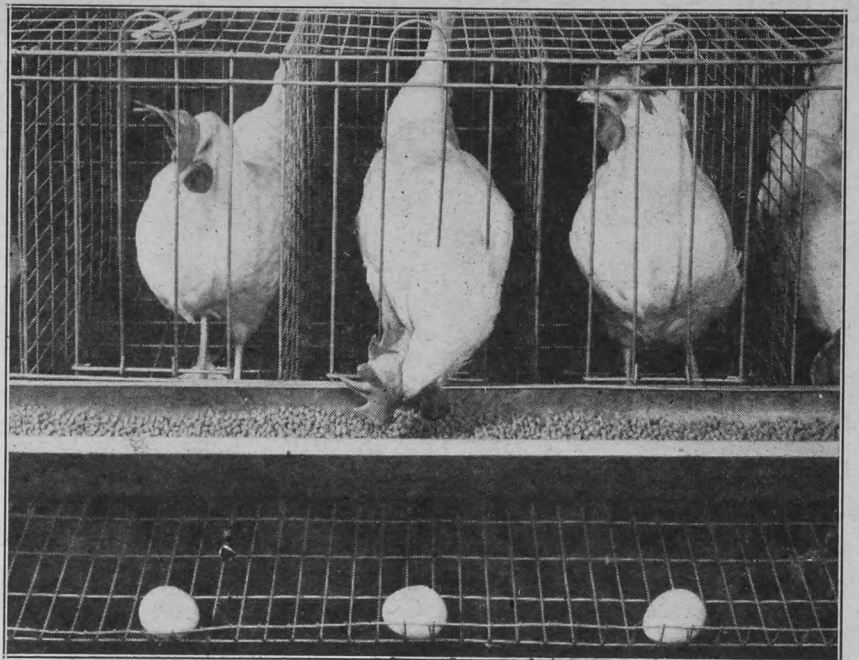
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## POULTRY



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### Egg Quality

ALTHOUGH the major cause of poor quality eggs on the consumer's table is faulty handling after the egg is produced, poor flock management can contribute to low quality too. Selective breeding, good feeding practices, and a proper environment are needed to ensure that eggs are top quality when laid.

Both the shell and the interior of the egg can be improved by selective breeding which eliminates the birds that produce poor quality eggs. During production, feed is the most important factor, and variations in feed quality show up readily in the eggs. Feeds that are high in oils are exceptionally bad because the oily taste is often imparted to the egg. For the same reason, excess feeding of fish liver oil results in a fishy taste. Other quality factors such as albumen content, yolk color, blood and meat spots, can also be affected by the feed. Yolk color, for instance, can be varied from light to dark, depending on the amount of pigment in the ration. Feeding a large quantity of corn or cereal grass will result in dark colored yolks, while an excess of highly colored feed such as grass may cause yolks to be so dark the consumer won't accept them.

The environment of the laying hen is generally reflected in the egg quality. Birds kept in clean surroundings with lots of fresh air, water, and good feed will produce better eggs than hens kept in a dirty environment, lacking clean water, and forced to forage for their food. The consumption of dirty, decaying food is another sure road to the production of poor quality, off-flavor eggs. However, most substandard eggs produced as a result of improper breeding and feeding can be removed in the grading and candling process. Low quality eggs reaching the consumer's table are generally caused by careless handling after they are produced. Failure to cool them properly and keep them under refrigeration is the main cause of quality loss from the nest to the table. Poor storage conditions mean watery eggs with flat yolks, and stale odors.

### House Ventilation

TO allow adequate air circulation, laying houses should be at least 20 feet in width. They should also be well insulated so that they retain bird body heat, and reduce moisture condensation on the inside walls and ceiling.

Three ventilation systems that have given satisfaction over a wide area of the prairie provinces are: (1) *The drawer type* — drawers are installed above the windows so they can be moved in and out to satisfy air needs. (2) *The flue type* — this system consists of a short flue inlet through the loft that brings in the air at ceiling level, and an outlet flue which extends from the laying house floor to two feet above the ridge of the roof. The latter is insulated from ceiling to top, and capped about ten inches above the flue's end. A sliding door at the floor end allows for regulation of the air flow. (3) *The exhaust fan type* — which consists of an exhaust fan, fan duct, and inlets, all sealed to the area to be serviced. Where power is available, this method is proving very satisfactory in southern Alberta.

### Ordering Turkey Poults

THE date for receiving delivery of your turkey poults should be gauged to the time the turkeys are to be marketed in the fall, and orders placed early enough so they arrive when you want them. If you plan to market the birds on December 1, the proper date for the poults to arrive at your farm is 28 to 29 weeks previous to the marketing date—in this case, around the first or second week of May. On the other hand, if the marketing target is mid-November, the arrival date should be two weeks earlier. However, if your other farm operations make it more convenient to brood poults in March, or early April, the birds should be marketed when they are first ready in late October, or early November. There's no point in ordering poults for early delivery if you don't plan to market the turkeys until December.



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## POULTRY

Another consideration in ordering  
turkey poults is to know the floor  
area of your brooding facilities. The  
number of poults which can be  
brooded at one time can be readily  
calculated by allowing three-quarters  
of a square foot of floor space per  
poult. This is particularly important  
where poults are brooded early in  
the season and must be confined to the  
brooder house until six or seven weeks  
old. Various government bulletins are  
available which list the important  
points that require attention as the  
date approaches for arrival of your  
new stock. V

## Brooding Baby Chicks

IT is not too soon to start thinking  
about ordering this year's chicks  
and preparing the brooders for them,  
states R. H. McMillan, Poultry Com-  
missioner for Alberta. Size of the  
brooder house is an important factor  
because overcrowding can cause poor  
growth, toe picking, or cannibalism.  
The following table has been drawn  
up to help poultrymen judge the  
amount of space they will need:

### Baby Chicks

Floor Space:

½ sq. ft. per chick for first six weeks.

Feeding Space:

1 inch per chick for first three  
weeks, 2 inches per chick from  
three to six weeks.

Water Space:

1 one-gallon fountain for each 50  
chicks.

Roosting Space:

Provide low lathe forcing perching  
at three weeks.

### Growing Pullets

Floor Space:

1-3 sq. ft. per bird as they grow.

Feeding Space:

3 inches per bird, with plenty of  
space for grain if trough fed.

Water Space:

2 one-gallon fountains for each 50  
birds.

Roosting Space:

5-8 running inches per bird.

In other words, a 10 by 12-foot  
house will handle 240 chicks for six  
weeks, then the number should be  
reduced to 120. The house should be  
well built, insulated, free from drafts,  
and be well lighted and ventilated.

Brooder heating systems can be  
adapted to coal, wood, oil, gas, or  
electricity. Both radiant and under-  
floor heating are practicable for larger  
layouts, while owners of small flocks  
who have electric power available  
will find infra-red heat lamps very  
effective. One 250-watt infra-red bulb  
will provide enough heat for 75 to  
100 chicks. The heat should be evenly  
controlled to prevent fluctuations in  
temperature, because too much heat  
can be as harmful to young chicks as  
too little. For the first week the  
temperature should be 95 to 100  
degrees F. about two inches off the  
floor, then reduced about five degrees  
per week until the 65 to 70-degree  
point is reached. By this time (six  
weeks of age) the birds should be  
perching. Thermostatic heat control is  
the best method for obtaining even  
temperatures. V

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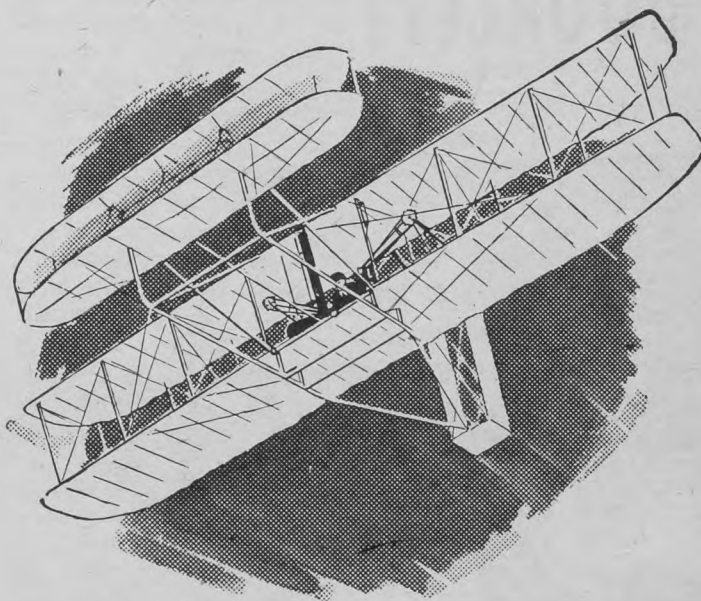
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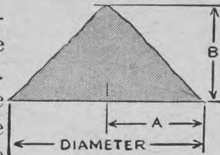
TOWN.....PROV.....

## WORKSHOP

## Late Winter Workshop Aids

*Preparation for the spring rush is the order of the day*

**Estimating Grain Bushels.** To estimate the number of bushels of grain in a square bin take length times width times height times eight, and divide by ten. A cone-shaped round pile is more difficult. In this case take the radius of the base ("A" in the illustration), times the radius of the base times three and one-seventh, times one-third of the height (B), times eight over ten. The radius (A) is one-half of the diameter.—O. T., Man. ✓

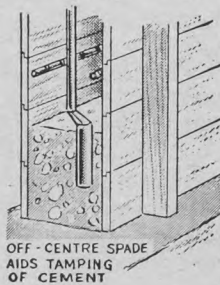


**Setting Posts.** Two or three old discarded harrow teeth driven into fence posts as shown will keep posts from being lifted by the tension of the wires, when the posts are set in gullies or ditches. In a long draw this will hold the fence down, even if done on only every second or third post.—A. B., Sask. ✓

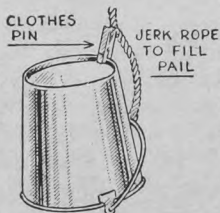


**Static Electricity Control.** I have often read that the most common cause of static electricity in belts is slipping and internal friction in the belt, and that both can be controlled by proper lubrication of the internal fibres. This is true, but it ignores the fact that belt creep can also cause static electricity. Actually the best control for static electricity is to make belts conductors of electricity, and this can be done by treating the belt with glycerine or other conductors.—W. F. S. ✓

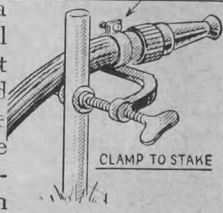
**Tamping Cement Tight.** It is frequently difficult to tamp cement in a narrow wall, or in one that has a lot of reinforcing steel in it. By welding a "spade" or plug on the end of a steel rod, and carefully putting it off center you can get a tool that will do a better job of tamping. When the spade is driven down or whirled it "shimmies," and this packs the cement in tight against walls or around reinforcing rods.—W. F. S. ✓



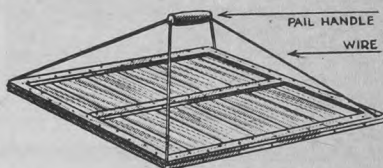
**Self-Dipping Pail.** By drilling a small hole in a common clothes pin and tying it with wire to the rope, as shown, I simplified drawing water from my deep well. Before lowering the pail I clamp the clothes pin on the lower edge, and by jerking on the rope when the pail is in the water I release the pin.—H. E. F. ✓



**Hose Holder.** A garden hose holder can be made from a C-clamp and a hose clamp. Drill both and rivet them together and fasten the hose clamp onto the hose. The assembly can then be clamped to a wooden stake, and the assembly set up wherever it is wanted.—H. E. F. ✓



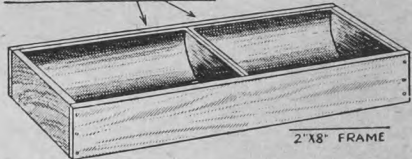
**Plant Carrier.** A small platform with a handle, as shown, is a handy way to move plants out of the house during the day, and in again at night. The one shown is 15 inches by 20 inches. Wires are run from the two corners, and twisted at the middle, an old water pail handle slipped on and the other two ends fastened. I built mine with 5/16-inch lumber and put one by one-and-a-half-inch boards along the sides.—H. S. ✓



**Steadying Paint Pail.** Three short coil springs with hooks on the end can be used to prevent your paint pail from tipping when you have it on top of the ladder, as shown in the illustration. If you don't have suitable coil springs, strips of inner tube to which wire hooks are fastened would be satisfactory.—H. E. F. ✓



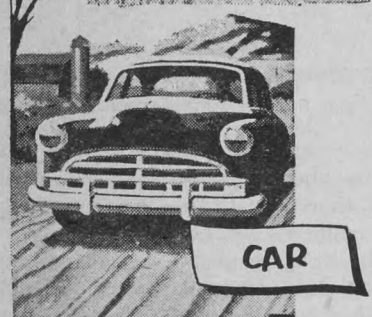
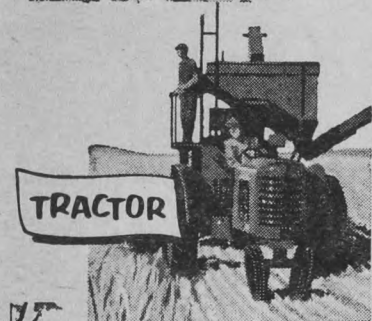
**Handy Hog Trough.** I made a light, steady, water-tight hog trough out of the two halves of a five-gallon 2,4-D weed killer can. I cut the can into two equal halves with a cutting torch, welded the two pieces together in the center, and then made a frame for it from two-by-eight planking. If you wanted a larger trough extra cans could be welded on.—I. W. D. ✓



**Cleaning Storage Battery.** Storage batteries will stand up better if the tops are kept clean. Accumulations will result in some shorting. A solution of baking soda and water will cut acid, and can be used for cleaning the battery. After cleaning the battery should be rinsed with clear water. Do not allow any soda solution to get into the battery. Before hooking up the battery the terminals should be covered with grease or Vaseline. This cuts down corrosion.—O. T., Man. ✓



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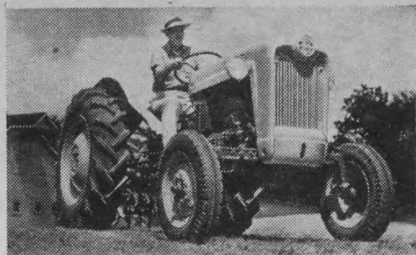
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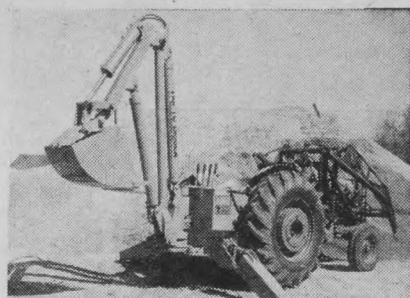


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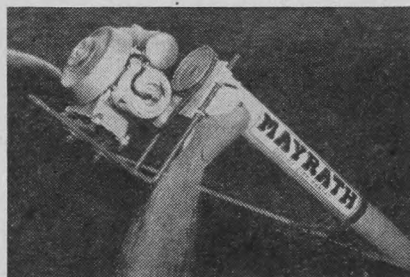
## WHAT'S NEW



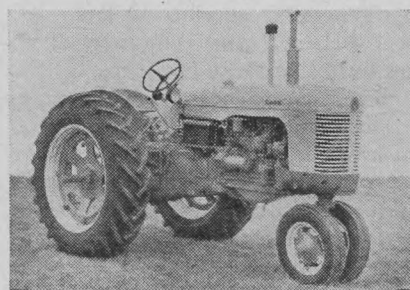
For the first time in its history Ford tractor company is going into the production of several sizes of tractors. The tractor shown is one of the "800" series—full three-plow tractors. The company will also be offering three models in a smaller "600" series. (Ford Motor Co.) (70) ✓



Designed for mounting on wheel-type tractors the new model 80 RTM Hopto digger will, according to the manufacturer, dig 10 feet deep, and is available with buckets eight to 36 inches wide and with capacities up to one-quarter yard. It can be mounted on many of the commonly used tractors. (Badger Machine Co.) (71) ✓



This new, low-priced, lightweight grain auger, furnished complete with all attachments, is manufactured in 11-foot, 16-foot and 21-foot lengths. The galvanized steel tube is three and one-half inches in diameter and the auger is said to move ten bushels a minute. (Mayrath, Inc.) (72) ✓



Two new engines, the diesel "Powr-cel" and the gas "Powrdye" are used to power the new Case "400" tractors. The tractors have eight forward speeds which overlap at or above peak-torque engine speed. This is said to permit full use of engine power at any travel and PTO speed. The Eagle Hitch three-point hook-up handles rear-mounted, four-plow-size implements. (J. I. Case Co.) (73) ✓

For further information about any item mentioned in this column, write to What's New Department, The Country Guide, 290 Vaughan St., Winnipeg 2, giving the key number shown at the end of each item, as—(17).

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## FARM YOUNG PEOPLE



[Guide photo]

It was "lamb in the house" when the Foothills 4-H Sheep Club met in the home of Dr. B. W. Banks, south of Calgary.

## New Foothills Sheep Club

*Alberta sheepmen form club to interest farm young people in their favorite animals*

**T**WENTY-THREE farm youngsters in the Okotoks and Millarville districts, south and west of Calgary, have joined Alberta's newest 4-H sheep club, while several of their younger brothers and sisters have formed their own group to begin learning the game themselves. Some that hardly knew a sheep from a goat two years ago are becoming experts at carding and clipping for exhibition, and, more important, in feeding, shearing, dipping, spraying, and worming, too.

The new club was started by a group of experienced sheepmen who were becoming concerned that too many of the younger farm generation knew nothing about these important farm animals. Dave Lewis, Jack Paul, and Tom Hepson of Okotoks, and Gerald Newman, Gladys and Bob Nicholson of Millarville met with District Agriculturist Charles Yauch to lay the ground work. Their club would be a general sheep club the first year, not a 4-H club, and youngsters of all ages would be invited to join.

The response was overwhelming. Prospective members rushed about the district searching for ewes to start their projects. They met at Jack Paul's and Tom Hepson's, where sheep were provided for the first lessons in trimming and showing. A field day was called at Dave Lewis' in the heat of summer, with speakers discussing every phase of sheep husbandry. Over 50 youngsters and their parents crowded the farm, until the ice cream truck was tired of hauling its cooling cargo from town. Local organizations and farmers donated prizes and trophies for the first achievement day held at the Millarville Fair, and the young shepherds were judged on the way they handled their charges. Finally, members exhibited their lambs as fat market animals at the Calgary sheep sale, sold them there by auction, and with their money tucked away, headed home to plan for another year.

It became a regular 4-H club, with 25 members, each with three ewes. By this time, the federal and provincial governments had become aware of the club, and anxious to stimulate the sheep club idea, each provided a ram. With about 70 ewes in the club, it was divided in half. One group of ewes was sent to the Jack Paul farm with one of the rams, the other to the Dave Lewis farm. By Christmas, with all the ewes in lamb, the young members were calling for their own, taking them home, and preparing for another still more active season. This year, they will keep records of breeding, birth and shearing dates, feed quantities, and wool yields. Each will see more clearly the place of sheep on the farm.

Most encouraging of all, says Dave Lewis, some of them will have sheep on their farms when they start for themselves a few years hence.—D.R.B.

## Profits

### From 4-H Work

**M**UCH has been said of the intangible rewards of 4-H work, but quite often a project can be profitable in terms of dollars and cents. Across the Border, in North Dakota, two major 4-H winners of last year, Arnold Johnson of Kempton, and Chris Leier of Kintyre, have made a financial success of most of their projects. All of Arnold's baby beeves shown at the Grand Forks fair have been blue ribbon winners, so that over the years he has been able to pay for most of his clothes and other necessities. In connection with his farm and home electrification work, Chris Leier figures he has saved his family \$575 in wiring and welding costs. Added to this, he has built a haystack mover, and repaired broken implement and machinery parts.

"It's not hard to be successful in 4-H work," he says.



# He Has Sold Everything

*Pete Hurst is an auctioneer because he once had his head read, and it worked*

by GERALD L. WRIGHT

AS one of the west's leading auctioneers and one of the nimblest-witted persuaders who ever climbed onto a farmer's wagon to engineer an auction sale, Calvin H. (Pete) Hurst of Weyburn, Saskatchewan, has, in his day, sold everything from 100 pounds of rotten fish to a bow-legged, spavined cayuse. Now crowding 65, bald as a Hallowe'en pumpkin, and as quick with his tongue as a colt with its hoof, Pete still officiates as he has for years, at most of the major auction sales along the Soo Line, and through Saskatchewan's south country.

Pete, some farmers say, can spot a bid before the bidder gets time to open his mouth. One customer at an auction sale south of Weyburn, claims that he only cocked an eyebrow at Pete, and the sharp-eyed auctioneer yelled, "Sold." Hurst, who knows literally hundreds of farmers by their first names, seldom fails to call a name correctly.

The stocky, red-faced bid-catcher, of Canadian-Irish parentage, claims that he never deliberately tells a joke at a sale, as it interferes with business. Most of the people who have ever attended one of his sales, however, will tell you that Pete is such a natural comedian, he has the crowd laughing most of the time. For instance, Pete sold by auction the equipment in a Weyburn blacksmith shop recently. After putting the first of two identical down-draught forges on the block, he sold it for a good price. Pete then turned to the second forge and remarked, "Gentlemen, this is by far the best one here. That other one never did work."

Says Mr. Hurst, "The big secret of selling things at an auction sale is to keep going and don't give them a chance to think! For instance," he explains, "you may be selling a cow. You just finish saying, 'Here's a real milk cow, gentlemen,' when some fellow starts examining around and hollers out, 'Hey! She's only got three teats.' Quick as a bullet, you have to shout back, 'Yes, but you should see the calf she raised on two.' You have to hold your temper at a sale, too, and never swear. If you can't control your temper, you can't control the crowd."

Hurst says that the most outlandish article he ever was asked to sell came on the block a number of years back, when he was officiating at the disposal of the effects of an old pioneer, the late James Roblin. Pete noticed that his assistants held their noses when they hefted the sack up the step. Peering into the bag, Pete discovered about a hundred pounds of dried fish, of the variety used to supply relief recipients during the starving thirties. "I guess that Jimmy, being a good Liberal, had kept the fish for sentimental reasons," chuckled Pete.

Pete remembers with amusement, too, a certain disreputable looking horse which he was asked to auction a number of years ago. "When I got around to the horse," Hurst declares, "the old couple who owned him broke

down and cried, giving everyone the impression that only a first-class horse would merit such an emotional parting. One fellow bid a good price for the old beast, but when he got it home and discovered its real qualities, he nearly killed both the horse and me. The old couple are both dead now, poor old souls, so I won't mention their names."

PETE'S selling career reached a pinnacle of success in 1928, when the federal government hired him as auctioneer to sell a quarter of a million dollars' worth of Dominion land in rural Saskatchewan. "During those days I earned up to \$300 a day," Pete recalls. Throughout the lean and hungry thirties, Pete officiated at a good many sales free of charge, because he made it a policy never to charge anyone who was down and out. Just by way of contrast though, he collected a fee of \$1,200 in one day, at a farm sale three years ago.

Bespectacled and shiny-headed, with his Irish wit and Irish nerve, Pete doesn't restrict his activities to the south country, either. He has, at one time or another, been hired to sell property and chattels all over the west. Always informal, and effortlessly comical, Pete has been known, when tired of standing, to lean for support on the neck of any bystander within reach.

Born at Barrie, Ontario, in July, 1889, Hurst got as far as Grade V, when he was finally dismissed from school, after being suspended three times in one week. The secretary of the municipality lent him \$50 for train fare to come west, which Pete repaid after a summer on a farm near Weyburn. Typhoid fever nearly finished him in 1914.

Pete enlisted with the 46th Battalion in the spring of 1915, trained at Camp Hughes, and arrived in England two days before Christmas the same year. As the battalion stepped off the boat, Pete says, a crowd of young English paperboys met them shouting, "Read all about it." The papers quickly disappeared and the boys, too. When the green Canadians opened the tabloids to scan the news, they discovered the papers were eight months old. Mr. Hurst contracted influenza in England and spent several months in hospital, undergoing two stomach operations before being invalided home. Arriving back in Canada, Hurst's brother, R. O. Hurst, for 30 years dean of the University of Toronto's College of Pharmacy, introduced Pete to a prominent phrenologist who informed Pete that he was cut out for either a salesman or comedian. Pete took the advice seriously and has been both comedian and salesman ever since.

In 1926, Hurst fell in love with the voice of the long distance telephone operator from Indian Head, Miss Berth Tuba. Young Pete pressed for a closer acquaintance and married the young lady in 1927. They have three children.

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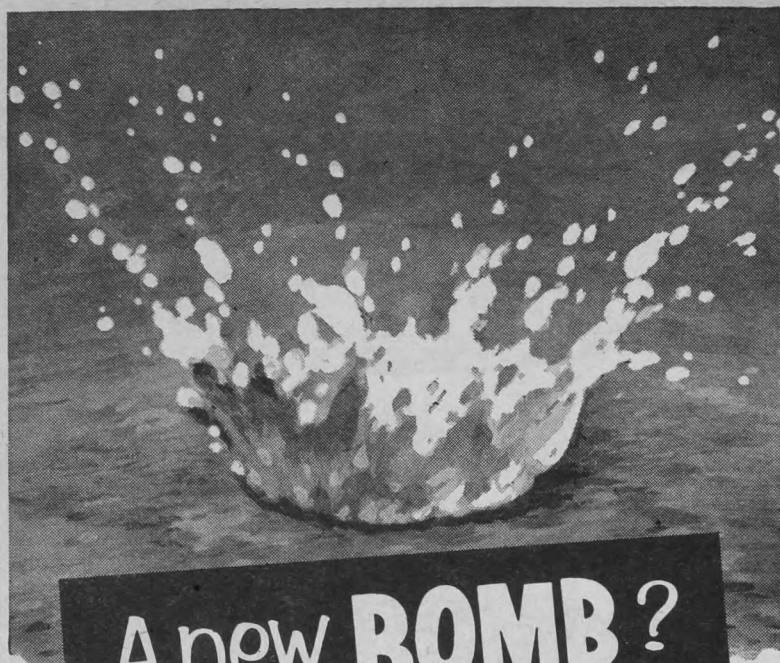
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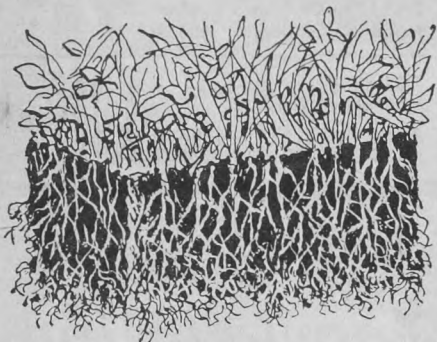


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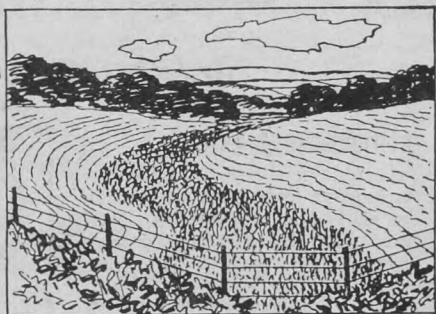
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## A Pig Tale

*Of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and their foster mother; and of how necessity is the forerunner of self-help*

by MARY-JO BURLLES

"I'M going to marry a millionaire when I grow up," I announced to my aunt with the confidence of an 11-year-old, as we walked along the road to her farm home. She smiled slightly as she spoke, "I think we all think that when we're young, Mary-Jo."

"Well anyhow," I retorted, stung by her amusement, "at least I won't marry a farmer."

I had occasion to remember this conversation last spring, when my husband walked into the kitchen with a cardboard box under his arm, set it carefully on the floor and pointed to three pink-eared, curly-tailed baby pigs inside. "Too many for the mother," he said. "She can't feed them all. We might be able to save one or two of them, but I doubt it."

I dug out the lamb nipples and tried desperately to remember the proportions of milk, water and sugar one used in small baby's formulas, while Bob found and washed a suitable bottle. We dispensed with the boiling and sterilizing, and got down to the more serious business of getting our two-day-old family to drink.

Bob pried the tiny jaws apart and I squirted warm milk down their throats, until they suddenly grasped the whole idea and began to suck furiously.

However, they had short memories. Every feeding time, which meant every 20 minutes during the first day, I went through the same procedure, holding the bottle with one hand and prying a small mouth open with the other.

I named them Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and set about preparing them a bed for the night. It was too cold to put them outside, alone, and I turned a deaf ear to all suggestions that they be allowed to crawl in with their foster mother. So we lined their box with straw and left them beside the stove.

By morning they were ravenous and chewed frantically at the nipples with no coaxing whatever. And with their small stomachs full they went back to their bed, to sleep again. Half an hour later, warm, fed, and rested, they began exploring the kitchen, and I began wondering about the best methods for housetraining infant pigs. They soon graduated to the living room and I rushed ahead to close the bedroom doors.

ABEDNEGO was unhappy. Most of the day he stayed in his corner of the box and snuffled his nose in the straw. Of the three, he was the smallest, and in spite of my efforts he gradually weakened and died.

Shadrach and Meshach were thriving. Within two days they were thoroughly at home and delighted in following me around the kitchen, squealing and playfully chewing at my ankles. They loved their two-legged mother. Every time I moved they were underfoot, and noisily demanded so much attention that I regretfully decided they would have to

go outside. We made them a small pen, which we set close to the house, and we wired them in. By morning they had wormed their way out and were sitting at the door waiting to be let in for breakfast.

My patience began to wear thin. Over and over I explained, as they grew older, that I had more important things to do than sit around all day and hold their bottles. But they selfishly refused to be weaned, and would have nothing to do with the small wooden trough which Bob had made specially for them. Doubtless they would still have been drinking from bottles at 200 pounds but for the day we went to Lethbridge. While we were gone, my brother-in-law dumped their milk in their trough and walked away, ignoring their pitiful little pleas for their beloved bottles. By next day, when we returned, they were slurping it up like full-grown hogs.

Their baby days were past. They had grown so heavy I could barely carry them, and they were into everything. The day that they ate the tulips and knocked a pailful of milk from the separating stand, spelled the end of their residence at the house.

That evening, squealing their protests at being forced to mix with common hogs, they were pushed and prodded down to the barn to be locked up and fattened. I sadly bade them good-bye and walked back up to a strangely empty yard—back to a normal life where pigs weren't allowed in the parlor.

## Push-Button Dairy Farming

DAIRY farmers can now operate from a swivel chair, if they adopt a milk plant layout developed by the Hervey Research Development Corporation, at Geneva, Illinois.

Built of steel, with plastic inner walls and concrete floors, the units are sold, fully equipped and installed, for about \$7,500 to farmers in northern Illinois. The ready-made plants contain a swivel chair located in a shallow pit, from which the farmer can open and close doors to let the cows in or out, measure feed into a trough, and wash and milk 30 head per hour, without having to move from his seat.

Feed is stored in an overhead bin, and each turn of a crank puts exactly one pound of it into the feed trough. On each side of the seated operator is a raised stall, high enough so the cows' udders are at arm level. By turning from one stall to the other, he can wash the udders and attach the teat cups of his milking machine to two animals at a time. Hanging down over the operator's chair, where they can be grasped with little effort, are the ropes that work the doors. Not included with the layout, but a welcome addition to any push-button farm, would be a T.V. set to entertain the operator as he worked.



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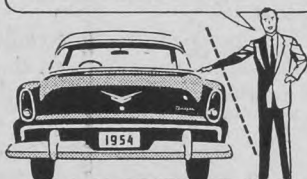
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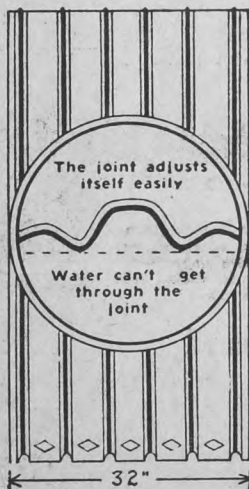


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## MONTHLY

### Feed Grain Subsidy Cut

Effective February 1, the Federal Government reduced the level of freight assistance on Western-grown feed grains shipped to Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia. Subsidies on shipments to Maritime points remained unchanged.

The official estimates for the 1955-56 fiscal year, tabled in the House of Commons, reduced the total annual subsidy allocations from \$17,000,000 to \$15,500,000. The reductions will amount to approximately 50 per cent in the case of B.C. shipments and from \$6 per ton down to \$4.50 per ton in the case of shipments destined to Ontario and the Montreal area of Quebec.

No specific explanation was given for the reductions in freight rate assistance other than that they are designed to "modify certain anomalies which have developed in the relative scale of assistance to different areas."

The feed grain subsidy plan was launched in 1941 as a wartime measure designed to encourage farmers to produce more hogs and cattle for the British market. Since that time freight rate assistance on feed grains has cost the Federal Treasury a total of \$220,512,000.

Yearly payments by destination since the inception of the plan in 1941 to December 31, 1954, have been as follows:

Year	British Columbia	Ontario	Quebec	Maritime Provinces
1941	\$ 135,096.06	\$ 764,302.50	\$ 720,721.68	\$ 289,413.10
1942	996,218.08	3,319,231.50	3,851,573.60	1,824,159.00
1943	1,432,696.28	6,518,142.00	5,523,277.30	2,767,969.70
1944	1,722,957.08	5,862,208.50	5,926,703.44	2,667,629.80
1945	1,758,328.51	6,191,145.00	6,117,941.48	2,758,782.30
1946	2,017,065.28	6,738,853.50	7,025,075.96	3,223,229.50
1947	2,182,894.98	7,446,339.00	7,314,739.32	3,096,645.30
1948	1,806,918.91	6,445,528.15	7,055,225.10	3,019,535.90
1949	1,503,139.89	5,419,655.16	6,591,132.47	2,734,637.04
1950	1,296,189.28	4,785,376.52	6,845,156.36	2,986,867.68
1951	1,567,955.83	4,374,333.27	7,191,326.67	3,107,528.25
1952	1,724,466.33	5,151,750.93	8,407,426.77	3,570,197.11
1953	2,226,071.39	4,693,236.87	7,395,317.95	3,291,679.56
1954	2,092,941.62	4,481,621.99	7,545,080.60	3,008,815.95
Total	\$22,462,939.52	\$72,191,724.89	\$87,510,698.70	\$38,347,090.19

### Over Quota Provisions for Seed Grain Purchases

The Canadian Wheat Board has announced over-delivery privileges for farmers desiring to sell commercial grains in order to finance the purchase of seed wheat, oats or barley.

The instructions provide that a farmer may deliver to the elevator, "a quantity not exceeding 400 bushels of any kind of commercial grain in excess of present or future delivery quotas in effect at the delivery point designated in the producer's permit book, provided that:

"1. The proceeds of the commercial grain delivered do not exceed the cost of the registered or certified seed purchased.

"2. The producer either signs an order with his elevator agent for the seed required, or submits a certified copy of invoice covering the purchase of the seed with instructions to the elevator agent to issue a cash ticket in favor of the seller for the value of the grain delivered over the quota.

"3. In all cases proper entries covering the grain delivered by the producer must be made in the producer's permit book."

The regulations allow the producer to purchase up to 150 bushels of registered or certified seed wheat, oats or barley or any combination of these grains through the Crop Improvement Associations, the Crop Testing Plan, from a bona fide dealer in registered and certified seed, or from a registered seed grower.

The instruction expires on June 1, 1955.

These provisions apply equally to Registered or Certified Selkirk seed wheat but special provisions have been made by the Board covering the sale and movement of Commercial stocks of Selkirk intended for seed purposes.

Insofar as the producer is concerned, the special quota regulations apply

equally to over quota deliveries for the purchase of Selkirk seed wheat. That is, he may deliver a quantity of commercial grain not exceeding 400 bushels in excess of delivery quotas in effect and may use the returns to purchase up to 150 bushels of commercial Selkirk wheat. These transactions are subject to the same provisos as for the purchase of Registered or Certified seed.

To facilitate the movement of Commercial Selkirk seed between Western Canadian provinces, the Board is granting to elevator companies and bona fide seed dealers who are agents of the Board, the necessary licenses to transport Selkirk seed across inter-provincial boundaries. The Board will also grant a similar license to producers who purchase Selkirk seed in another province if the seed is to be used for seeding on lands described in the purchaser's delivery permit book.

Applications for such licenses must give full particulars of the names and addresses of the respective seller and purchaser together with the quantity of Commercial Selkirk wheat to be transported. Applications may be made by ordinary letter addressed to Country Operations, Canadian Wheat Board, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

### Ocean Freight Rates Rise

Canadian exporters and shippers are having difficulty in chartering cargo vessels for overseas shipments and then only at much higher rates, according to recent news reports.

According to the Financial Post, rapidly mounting ship charter rates are causing a serious vessel shortage at both coasts, a development said to be interfering with grain export orders. Shippers are reported to be paying close to 100 per cent more for cargo space in Vancouver and about 60 per cent more in Halifax than last summer.

Major reason for the difficulty is not a reduction in total ocean shipping but



## COMMENTARY

a phenomenal increase in the international movement of a number of commodities. One of the big items in this movement is American coal which is in surplus supply in the United States and which is being shipped overseas in increasing quantities. While the movement is likely to be seasonal, no easing of the situation is likely before spring.

While cargo vessels may be difficult to find for grain movement it seems likely that this situation works to the benefit of Canada-United Kingdom wheat shipments. The higher rates have created some advantage for Canadian shipments over Australian and Argentine grains because of the much longer hauls from those countries to European ports. This may partially account for Canadian exports during the month of December being higher than in the same month a year earlier. Wheat and wheat flour exports amounted to 19.9 million bushels compared with 17.8 million bushels in December, 1953, and a ten-year average for December of 18.2 million bushels.

### Increase in World Wheat Trade Expected

Total world import requirements for wheat during 1954-55 are expected to be at least five per cent above last year's recorded shipments, according to a publication, "World Agricultural Situation 1955," released by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. This estimate is based principally on the poor quality of last year's crop in Western Europe, the world's major importing area.

The report estimates that United States exports may reach 250 million bushels compared with 216 million bushels exported in 1953-54. Argentina's 1954-55 exports are expected to reach at least 100 million bushels, while Australia may dispose of something in excess of last year's exports of 71 million bushels. Canadian exports will probably remain near last season's level of 288 million bushels, states the report.

Officials at Ottawa have refrained from commenting on the U.S. agriculture department prediction. However, The Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Canada's Minister of Trade and Commerce, said in the House of Commons:

"I expect them (sales) to be better than last year, and I know the Wheat Board expects them to be better.

"For example, we have sold to the United Kingdom more wheat up to this time this year than we sold during the whole of last year; and the United Kingdom is still buying wheat."

Turning to the export statistics given in the Trade Department's *Wheat Review*, the Minister said the figures were "somewhat misleading."

"The total exports for the first six months," he said "were two million bushels less than for the first six months of last year. This result arises from the fact that last year we took into the crop year a carryover of about 38 million bushels of sales which had not been shipped, due partly to the grain elevator strike at Vancouver. That carryover of sales was counted in the shipments for the first six months. This year we had a carryover of only

11 million bushels, mainly out of Churchill. So we had a balance of sales from the previous year of about 27 million bushels to make up before we applied shipments against this year's sales."

A few days later in the Commons, the Trade Minister expressed the view "that before the crop year ends on July 31 any producer who has grain of any kind that he wishes to market will have had an opportunity of marketing it." Evidently government officials are moderately optimistic in their views on the wheat export situation.

### Crop Payments in Prospect

Trade Minister, The Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, told the Commons last month that an attempt would be made to get payments on wheat and coarse grains into the hands of Western farmers by seed time. It was thought likely that an interim payment would be made first on 1953-54 deliveries of oats, followed by an interim payment on barley deliveries and lastly, a final payment on wheat delivered to the Wheat Board in the crop year 1953-54.

The Minister outlined the procedure laid down in the Canadian Wheat Board Act which provides that the Board must recommend the payments and the Government must approve before payments are made. He expressed the view that the Board was just as anxious to meet the needs of the farmers as was the Government.

Other points made by the Minister were these:

1. There will be a substantial carry-over of wheat at the end of the current crop year but this will be mostly in public storage.

2. He has no reason to believe that the present initial price could not be continued next year but he made no promises.

3. Prospects are promising for an excellent wheat crop this summer.

4. The present over-all Canadian picture would not justify payments to farmers other than those due from crops marketed.

Mr. Howe was the last speaker in the wheat debate which developed in the House of Commons on the motion to go into supply. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia) had asked that the final payment be made immediately and he urged the Government to declare a final payment of at least 20 cents a bushel on wheat regardless of the balance in the Board's funds.

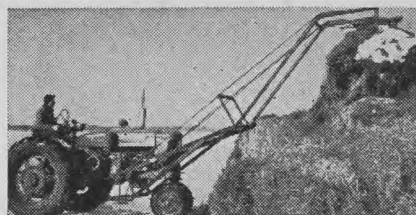


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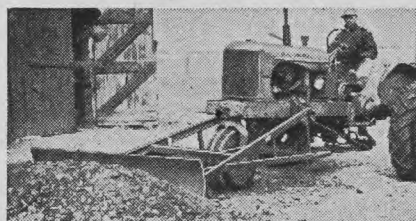


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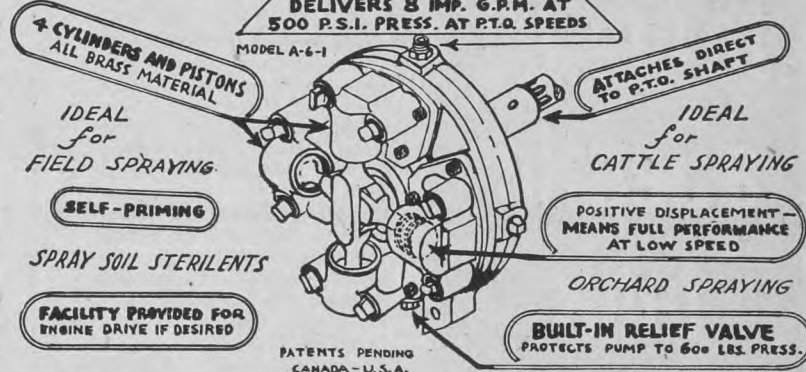
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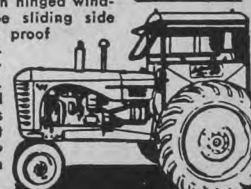
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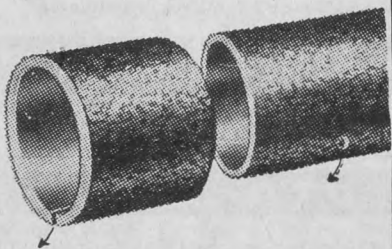
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## Now They All Go to School

*Continued from page 7*

in 1953, 37 took the service, in 1954, 150 took it, and this year the number has jumped to 200.

The Kindersley Unit were anxious not to forget, in the midst of all this activity, that they had three other purposes to serve. They wanted to have agriculture taught in the junior and senior high schools and to interest and train young men out of school who had not yet started farming.

An attempt to start this program had failed previously, due largely to a lack of real interest in the country. Now the vocational agricultural associations had convinced many farmers that getting a more complete agricultural education was well worth the effort.

It was felt that final authority for the setting up of these programs should rest with the community farmers, acting under advice from the school unit administration. A Kindersley unit council was set up. Its membership consisted of two representatives from each of the district vocational agricultural associations and one representative from the school unit board. Ex-officio members included Jim Clarke, agriculture supervisor, Cecil Collins, school superintendent, Harold Tangjer, agricultural representative, and Kindersley school principal B. W. Tibbitt. At the first meeting, Milburn Ritchie from the Craiglands Association was chosen as chairman.

MANY of those who previously had been dragging their feet, were now in a hurry. At an early meeting of the Council they decided that the junior high school agricultural program should be launched. The result is that a course is being planned for the Unit composite schools located at Kindersley, Eaton, and Marengo, and other junior high schools in the Unit.

In this course an attempt will be made to give students an appreciation and understanding of farming, as well as to encourage them to get practical experience in some farm activity through club work. Participation in the 4-H club is expected to be a part of the training, and with the co-operation of the agricultural representatives, district board and 4-H Council additional 4-H clubs are expected to appear.

The third part of the program will be a natural outgrowth of the second. As students leave junior high school they will be able to go into a senior high agricultural course, and will have the necessary background for the course.

This course will have three distinct parts. It will include classroom instruction in all agricultural subjects as well as a co-operative farm project in which the boy, the teacher and the father will plan a project that the boy will manage, and from which he will get the income and experience, which could ultimately lead to a farm set-up of his own. Finally, it will lead into the last phase, which will take the form of a Future Farmers of Canada Chapter composed of graduates of the agriculture high school course. Such asso-

ciations will be interested in leadership, citizenship, farm community service, farm organizations and the improvement of farming and farm living.

THERE are different attitudes and opinions regarding this Department of Education foray into the field of agricultural education. "It appears to be working well in the Kindersley School Unit, but how much does that mean?" some of the Department of Agriculture people ask. "At Kindersley you have Jim Clarke and Cecil Collins pushing the program, but how many Clarks and Collinses can you get to put that kind of ability and effort into agricultural education? The fact that it works at Kindersley doesn't mean that it will work in other larger school units."

The point may be well taken, but Milburn Ritchie, member of the Craiglands Vocational Agriculture Association and chairman of the Kindersley Unit Council is not concerning himself too much beyond the borders of the Kindersley School Unit: "I don't think there's a doubt that it can and will work here, and it is a real help to us farmers," he told The Country Guide.

The Craiglands Association, of which he is a member, have had courses in bookkeeping, welding, public speaking and parliamentary procedure, electric wiring and a demonstration of meat cutting. "This gives

Quiet minds cannot be perplexed or frightened, but go on in fortune or misfortune at their own private pace, like a clock during a thunderstorm.—R. L. Stevenson.

us a chance to learn a bit of new material about our own business," said Ritchie. "Our wives are starting to come too, and they will have full membership. They will meet on different nights in the week from us. They are planning courses in sewing, interior decorating, first aid and home furnishing.

"Now we are planning our own clubhouse. We will be moving an old, abandoned schoolhouse into the schoolyard where the children now attend," he went on.

This will mean that the yard will have two schools, one for the children and one for dad and mother.

"I don't see why this thing shouldn't spread all over the province, if people get started," said Jack Butt, of Mantario. "We learn a lot out of it. I don't see how it can fail to make us better farmers and better citizens."

"Sure," said his brother-in-law, Dave Coventry. "Most farmers don't get a chance to go up to the University for courses. I've wanted to go, but it's not so easy when you have a wife and family and a place to look after. This scheme brings it right to you on the farm, you might say."

No one in the Kindersley School Unit is saying that their plan will work elsewhere. However, school officials and the school board and district farmers are satisfied that they have progressed a long way toward a solution of their seven-year-old problem of making school facilities meet the needs of the farm community.

"We seem to be making progress," says Cecil Collins.



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# Sun Life Pays \$26 Million In Policyholder Dividends

*Cost of insurance reduced. Nearly \$700 million of new business sold last year, largest amount of any Canadian company.*

For the sixth consecutive year, the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada is adopting new dividend scales which will substantially reduce the cost of insurance to the holders of its participating policies, according to an announcement by George W. Bourke, President, in his Annual Review of the Company's business for 1954. With this latest increase of policyholder dividends, the Company will pay out in the year ahead a total of approximately \$26 million—an increase of more than \$2 million over the previous year. New life insurance sold last year amounted to nearly \$700 million, an increase of \$120 million over 1953 and again the largest figure reported by any Canadian life company. Included in this new business figure is \$239 million of group insurance, representing an increase of \$68 million over the previous year. Benefits paid by Sun Life during the year amounted to \$134 million, and total benefits paid by the Company since its organization in 1865 now stand at \$2,866 million.

## \$6 BILLION IN FORCE

Other highlights of the Report include a total of life insurance in force amounting to more than \$6,000,000,000. During 1948 the Company passed the \$4 billion mark and, during 1952, topped \$5 billion. The Company has now passed another milestone and the two-year period taken to accumulate the last billion dollars contrasts sharply with the 54 years required for the first billion. Group insurance included in the 1954 figure amounts to \$1,996 million, an increase during the year of 13.9%. The proportion of insurance and annuities in force in the various countries where the Company operates is now as follows: Canada, 47%; United States, 36%; Great Britain and other Commonwealth countries, 14%; elsewhere throughout the world, 3%.

## MORTGAGE LOANS UP

Assets of the Company now stand at \$1,876 million, an increase of \$46 million over 1953. Mortgage loans increased by more than any other type of investment, in keeping with Sun Life's policy of striving to further the economic and social interests of the community consistent with sound investment principles. During the year, new mortgage loans made by the Company totalled \$83,000,000. Mortgage investments now total \$323 million, mostly in individual homes.

In commenting on the general economic situation, Mr. Bourke re-

marked that a year ago there was uncertainty in some quarters regarding the outlook for 1954. Despite the keen competition that existed among the various companies, however, 1954 was a year of expansion for life insurance and particularly for Sun Life. Mr. Bourke declared that the main reason the life insurance industry continued to forge ahead, was because a life insurance policy functions like a good investment. It increases in value, it provides a return on the investment and it has a market value which can be used to provide cash for emergencies and a retirement fund for old age. Moreover it does what no other investment can do—it creates an immediate estate for the protection of home and family.

Mr. Bourke stressed the recent improvements in medical science with the ensuing rapid and continuous decline in death rates. He pointed out that accidents now account for a substantial proportion of death from all causes, especially in the younger age groups, and that Sun Life experience shows that approximately one-half of all death claims under age thirty are the results of accidents, while accidents are now the third most frequent cause of death at all ages, following heart disease and cancer. In particular, he mentioned automobile accidents which account for about one-half of all accidental deaths. The hazard from this source will become greater unless accompanied by a steady improvement in the safety habits of the motoring public. Death claim records are full of tragic accidents which elementary safety precautions could have avoided.

## OUTLOOK FOR 1955

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Bourke said that Canada's national resources should continue to support thriving industries which may well set new standards of prosperity in 1955. There should be no abatement of the national confidence, for a steady progress beneficial to everyone is to be expected. "Canada's future depends not only on its economic heritage, but on the use to which that heritage is put," he concluded. "The tasks ahead may be different. We may have to adjust to new patterns and new demands, but I am confident we will meet the challenge."

A copy of Sun Life's complete 1954 Annual Report to Policyholders, including the President's review of the year, is being sent to each policyholder, or may be obtained from any of the 100 branch offices of the Company throughout North America.

# Family Farm In Denmark

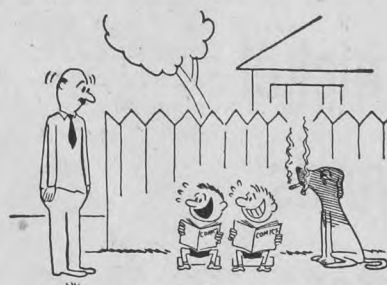
*Continued from page 8*

agriculture that no one considers it necessary to mention that such and such a herd is free from tuberculosis. All Denmark is now completely T.B.-free, the first country in the world to achieve such a status.

Mr. Olsen has in the back of his mind a plan to increase his milking herd, and was carrying ten young heifers for that purpose. Most of the young stock is normally sold for veal.

Although Danish winters are not normally severe, the Olsen cows are carried on full feed from November to the middle of April. In addition to hay, beet top ensilage and wheat, barley and bran feed for all the herd, high-producing cows receive an oilcake meal supplement.

There is no herd sire on the Olsen farm. For more than half a century Denmark has had a great number of cattle breeding societies, and when a program of artificial insemination was



"Oh . . . Hi, Pop."

launched in the late 1930's, these societies were ready to do the groundwork in introducing the new methods. Today, half of Denmark's total dairy stock is bred artificially. The method was adopted on the Olsen farm a number of years ago.

ALL of the 100 acres on the Olsen farm are cultivated, with a little better than a third of the acreage down to grass. Some 30 acres have been seeded down for 25 years, but are still showing a good thick cover, thanks to careful grazing and constant fertilization. Another eight acres of hay land is kept in rotation with the field crops.

None of the Olsen field production is marketed directly for cash. It takes all of it, plus a bit of imported feedstuffs to keep the cows and hogs going. On cultivated land Mr. Olsen operates a rough three-year rotation of feed barley, fodder sugar beets and mangels. In addition to all the manure from the barns, a good deal of commercial fertilizer is purchased.

By Danish standards the farm is quite well mechanized. There is a full-time man for dairy work, but field help is used as needed. A tractor has cut down a great deal of the field work, but Mr. Olsen is still shying away from the purchase of a combine. He says he has watched too many of his forward-looking neighbors tied up through the wet Danish autumns.

It seems quite significant to us that most of the programs being carried out on the Olsen farm, fitted neatly with the efforts of Danish agriculture on the national scene. Denmark has set for itself the goal of eventually increasing livestock production to a rate ten per cent above the pre-war level.

To achieve this, the chief aim has been to increase domestic production of animal feedstuffs.

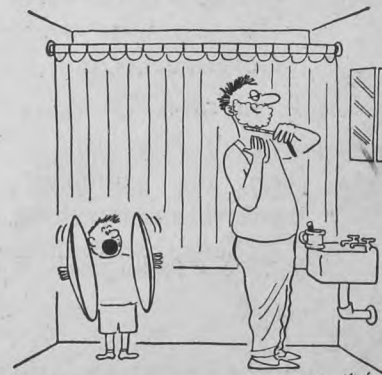
Of prime importance in this program is a drive for increased cultivation of the type of root crop which yields the highest content of dry matter. Danish farmers have found that fodder sugar beets give, in root yield alone, roughly twice as many feed units per hectare as grain and grass, and 20 to 25 per cent more than mangels and swedes. If, as on the Olsen farm, the tops are used for ensilage, the feed value per hectare is even greater.

On two other scores the Olsen farm is keeping in step with national policy. The increased use of field fertilizers is being strongly recommended as a factor in increasing grass and legume production; and more recently, Denmark has given close attention to the use of chemical weed sprays on field crops. Spraying operations are normally carried out by co-operative or private machine stations.

ONE fact which continues to re-emphasize itself to a Canadian visitor to Europe is the evidence of the great lure which Canada and the United States hold in all countries and among all classes. It crops up again in the case of the Olsen farm. Vilhelm Olsen has built up an excellent holding by dint of hard work and careful management. More recently he has acquired a second holding, which he operates more or less by proxy. He has a grown son, a graduate of Denmark's excellent system of agricultural schools. But Mr. Olsen does not yet know whether the appeal of his two well-run farms can win out over the appeal of a well-paid career for his son in the United States.

The son currently has a good job in the agricultural field in the United States. It seems that a Danish girl is bringing him back to his native land—at least temporarily—for wedding ceremonies—and the elder Olsens are hoping they can convince him that Denmark still has opportunities for her youth.

Sitting in the comfortable Olsen dining-room, sampling some of Mrs. Olsen's incomparable "smor-cake," we were inclined to cast in our weight with the older generation. The smor-cake had come from a kitchen whose like we had only seen before in the linoleum advertisements. When we retired to the 'sunny living room at the front of the house, we could look across the lawn to Mrs. Olsen's hobby—a garden of chrysanthemums, roses and gladioli. We decided then that there was more than production and prosperity here—there was good living and the deep satisfaction of having built a good farm and good home. V



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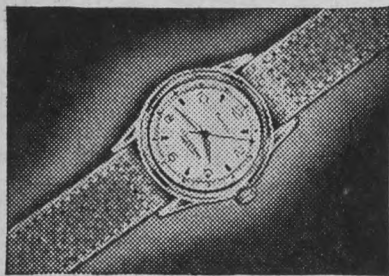
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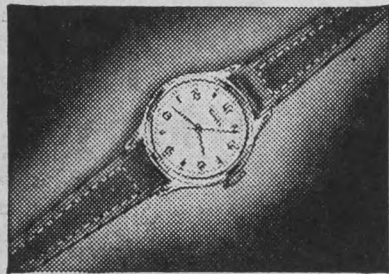
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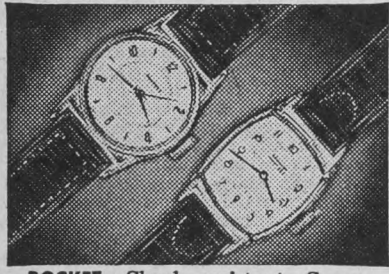
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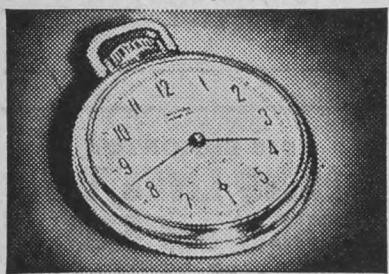
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## Counter Attack On Wheat Rust

Continued from page 9

tory by inoculation, to give a uniform "catch," so that no plant will have a heavier dose of rust than the next one and thereby interfere with the accuracy of the tests.

Since the project started a good deal has been learned of the tactics of the rust organism, and the reactions of the infected plant. When rust spores first land on either a resistant or non-resistant wheat variety, the initial change in the metabolism rate of each plant is the same. But from there on the reactions differ widely. On the resistant plant, the disease organism feeds on the plant tissue immediately around it; when that dies, the rust organism dies too. It is similar to what medical doctors call a "local" infection, which leaves a scar but doesn't harm the rest of the body.

In the case of the non-resistant variety, the infected area (rust pustule) draws food from all parts of the plant as fast as the latter can manufacture it. The plant exhausts itself to feed the unwelcome guest and literally starves to death. There is little or no new growth, no proper heading out; and, more important to the farmer and those who depend on him, no wheat.

**T**HE resistant plant holds the key to the whole investigation. There is strong indication that a hormone is involved here, but just what it is, or what mechanism is responsible for it, is not known. Nevertheless, a look at the rust picture should convince anyone that the answer is well worth finding out.

From the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian prairies, wheat field borders on wheat field for 2,000 miles. No other area in the world is as favorable for the development of wheat rusts. At the south end of this region, leaf and stem rust can readily survive the winter months, and in the springtime, prevailing south winds carry the spores northward, keeping pace with the development of the grain crop. A single minute rust spore can spawn 100,000 or more of its fellows within the short span of eight or nine days. At Regina

Leisure is not an event so much as a spiritual state.—Unknown.

during the epidemic of last year, 48,000 spores of leaf rust and 17,000 spores of stem rust were caught on one square inch of glass. Aided by ideal moisture conditions, these invaders reduced the 1954 wheat crop by an estimated 135 million bushels—a hefty smack at the Canadian economy in terms of dollars and cents.

For 30 years plant breeders have kept wheat rust under fairly effective control by preventive measures which have taken the form of new rust-resistant varieties. But to develop and test a new variety takes about ten years. What is needed, and needed badly, is some means of counter attacking promptly as soon as rust appears. This is what the biologists at the University of Saskatchewan are now studying, with fair promise of success.

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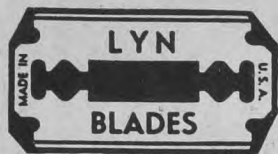
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## Wanted... A Large, Early Tomato

Continued from page 10

by a system of what is called *backcrossing*. By this process he crosses the two parent varieties, selects the earliest, large-fruited progeny, and crosses these again with the early parent, in the hope that more and more of the genes for earliness will be secured in the new line, as this backcrossing to the early plant is repeated, perhaps several times. Meanwhile, also, a backcross line for large-fruitedness is also developed in the same way, until, eventually, an early backcross line and a large-fruited backcross line will each have been secured, which will represent as much earliness as was represented by the early parent, and as much large fruitedness as the large-fruited parent had.

The final step, then, is to cross the early and large-fruited backcross lines, thus combining in one strain as many as possible of the genes for early ripening and for large-fruitedness.

THE backcross method of breeding has been promising where most other characters of the variety except early ripening and fruit size are desirable. However, several complications may slow down the progress normally made by backcrossing. One of these is due to what is called *gene linkage*, which occurs when the genes tend to stay together in a cluster, as they sometimes do. Some genes in a cluster may be responsible for early ripening, but some of them in the same cluster may produce small fruit; and the difficulty, therefore, is to get this linkage broken down. Unfortunately it can only be done by *chance* during the breeding process.

To complicate matters still more, many genes which produce the early ripening character may be linked with genes that perpetuate other undesirable characters. Furthermore—to pile difficulty on difficulty—when an undesirable gene linkage is broken, there is no assurance that the genes will not recombine in still another undesirable arrangement. Generally, too, only a few breaks in linkage occur at one time and many are needed. Thus, a breeding program may be severely hindered by difficulties such as these, which may be expected but cannot be foreseen.

Environment is a still further complicating factor in tomato breeding. For example, time of ripening and fruit size are markedly affected by low and high temperatures, by drought and excessive moisture, by low and high soil fertility, and so on. It is, therefore, often difficult to recognize the *true inherited form* of the character for which selection is to be made. Because of this difficulty large numbers of backcross progeny plants must be grown—up to 2,000 to 4,000—and from this number 25 or 50 of the earliest or the largest-fruited plants selected. In practice, the chances are good that a few of the selections will possess an increased number of genes for these characters.

A co-operative tomato breeding project is now being planned in which a large number of backcross

lines, involving both early ripening and large fruit-size, will be developed. This project will involve seven experimental stations in the prairie provinces, each of which will develop as many backcross vines as facilities may permit.

The stations in the northern districts will develop lines by backcrossing to an early parent and selecting for increased fruit size. Those in the southern prairie districts will develop backcross lines that are large-fruited and are selected for early ripening. Finally, after these backcross lines are satisfactorily developed, the final step would be to intercross the lines from one station with those from another, until they have all been converged into one strain of tomatoes. It is anticipated that this procedure will bring together a maximum number of genes for the two desirable characters, and may make possible the desired early, large-fruited tomato.

It has already been suggested that it may be difficult, if not impossible, to combine extra-early ripening with large fruit-size. It may be that such a combination is physically impossible, because a large tomato must have time to grow and ripen. Nevertheless, no detailed breeding information is available to prove that this obstacle exists. Experienced plant breeders point out that there are often unexpected results from a breeding program, and that these may provide the character combinations for a desirable short season tomato.

(Note: Charles Walkof is senior horticulturist, vegetable crops, at the Morden Experimental Station.—ed.)

## A Load of Lumber

Continued from page 13

they would most certainly have run away, but the oxen did not seem to mind it at all. In fact they seemed to enjoy it, and wriggled and scratched their hind-ends on the ends of the boards with evident satisfaction.

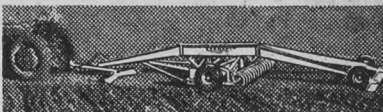
Well, we got to the bottom of the hill safely, rearranged the load and fastened it again with the logging chain. We tossed up to see who should walk through the creek and dig two grooves in the south bank for the wheels to run up, and of course I was chosen. I still do not know how they wangled it, but after having a nice, long drink, the team pulled the load through the creek and started up the south bank. The hind wheels had almost reached the top of the incline when a hamestrap broke and the wagon slid quietly back into the stream.

There we were stuck and had to take off the load before we could get out. We unhitched the team, and made breakfast. The sun was shining, and we were only about eight miles from home, so life was beginning to assume a rosy outlook once again. We pulled the empty wagon out of the creek, loaded up the lumber and lit out for the homestead at full walk. We got there for a late lunch, and I remember that I was quite happy to fill up on bread and red jam.

The boards and shingles are still doing service on the chicken house on the farm, although it is over 50 years since we fetched that load of lumber from Fort Pitt.

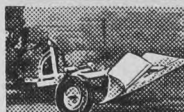
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## Herefords Without Horns

*Continued from page 11*

before the cattle could reach it, he abandoned hope. He reports that having retained a carload of 40 animals for another start he "gave" the remainder to the government for 75 cents per cwt.

Always a perfectionist, and wanting the best he could get, he remembers buying three grade bulls one fall, more than 30 years ago, to put them into condition for spring breeding. The sight of them around the farm during the winter months was too much, however, and two of them were sold. The other was slaughtered for beef; and the Taylors still have the rug made from its hide.

Since then he has always tried to buy good bulls, some of them champions and high-priced bulls, at the Brandon, Regina and Calgary sales. He still chuckles about the time he was asked to leave the top ones for purebred breeders, to which he replied that the breeders could have them if they paid enough money. "An extra five dollars on every calf was all I needed to pay for those top bulls," he says now.

His interest in polled cattle developed early. In 1922 he bought his first one from the Jones Brothers' herd at Boissevain, Manitoba. It proved to be an easier and better way of getting rid of horns, than by using a saw.

Thus it was that in 1937, leaving the grasshoppers to devour the few surviving spears of grass on his ranch, he set out to find a new home. It was a long search, but haste had long since given way to patience. The search took him over much vacant land in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, until one day, south of Broadview, he drove over a hill and down onto a green and rolling stretch of pasture through which wound a pleasant creek. It was still virgin land, but a few cattle from neighboring herds roamed over it. They were comparatively fat and quite unaware of the widespread drought. This, then, would be the new home of the Taylor Circle T Ranch.

Smaller than the one he had left, he and his two sons, Bud and Sid, could work it themselves. A plentiful supply of water was assured from the Pipestone River, which took its rise in the nearby Weed Hills. Plenty of good grazing would be found along the cool, damp creek bottom, even in dry years, and in addition, there would be protection from winter storms. Brome grass, crested wheat-grass and alfalfa, when seeded, would provide a plentiful supply of winter hay.

Taylor reasoned that Herefords were the rancher's cattle, and that polled cattle had saved him many dollars in his commercial operations. Moreover, in a district where such names as Olsen, Sutter, Fox, and Lees were well known for polled whitefaces, the Polled Herefords were a logical choice, and he made it.

IN the United States, more than half a century ago, an occasional hornless calf in horned herds was regarded as "sport" or "mutation." In that early day five midwest breeders thought

they saw some definite economic advantage in raising cattle without horns. Even then, feeders paid a premium for animals without horns, because the horns often meant torn or bruised carcasses during the process of marketing and slaughter. Sometimes, too, if horns were removed late, the animal would receive a setback, or occasionally die.

This small group of men discovered that this so-called sport was really a dominant character; and that polled cattle mated with horned cattle produced polled offspring. This meant, of course, that the task of establishing a herd and expanding it would be very much simplified. An Idaho breeder, Warren Gammon, scoured the country and located 13 hornless cattle, which in 1901 were registered with the American Hereford Association. They

Imagination was given to man to compensate him for what he is not, and a sense of humor was provided to console him for what he is.—*Wall Street Journal.*

also became the first to be recorded by the newly formed American Polled Hereford Association. By 1933, one Polled Hereford was registered for every 21 horned animals, and by 1953 it was one in six.

In Canada, Mossom Boyd, Bobcaygeon, Ontario, is credited with being the pioneer Polled Hereford breeder. Since then, the problem has been to maintain the beef type of good horned Herefords, without losing the polled characteristic. This necessity has made selection rather more difficult, but some have stuck with the job.

Walter Taylor is very sure that Polled Herefords have a good future in Canada. He reminded us that at the Saskatoon Interprovincial Show, April, 1953, the grand champion Hereford was a polled bull—the first in Canada at a major show. At the spring shows in 1954, he says, the big polled animals brought premiums over their horned relatives.

He says that his own annual production sale in 1953, topped all Hereford sales in Canada. Last year, with days of rain leading to heavy cloud-bursts shortly before his sale, so that the tractor was called on to haul car after car through nearly impassable mud, 18 yearling bulls and the same number of yearling heifers, still brought \$20,170.

DURING the decade between 1937 and 1947 the Circle T herd gradually increased in numbers. In 1947, in search of good breeding stock, Walter Taylor took a 7,000-mile trip into the southern states. At Knoxville, Tennessee, he acquired a bull, two heifers and a cow, adding others from time to time. Two years ago he set out again, covering 11,000 miles, and after examining a large number of herds finally paid \$6,500 for a bull calf.

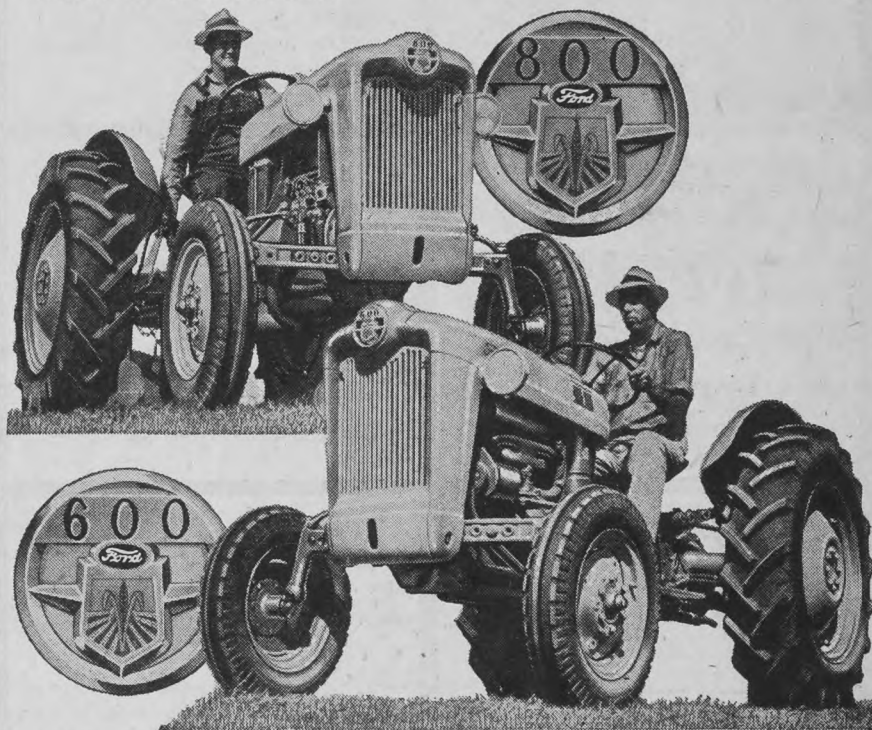
Two goals still face the tall, spare, soft-spoken rancher. One is to continue improving his herd, and the other is to work with other Polled Hereford breeders to achieve still greater prominence for the hornless whitefaces through the Canadian Polled Hereford Club. His faith is such that he hopes to see the Hereford breed in Canada made predominately polled in another 25 years. V



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# If You Meet a White Horse

*Pants was a horse, and white, too. He was also wily, willful, wise, and wicked*

by SYLVIA BROECKEL

THERE is an old superstition which says that it is unlucky to meet a white horse on leaving home—unless you spit on the ground. I once had a white horse that it was unlucky to meet at any time. We called him Pants, because he would

not wear his blanket in the proper place, but would drag it down with his teeth and leave it draped around his legs.

Pants was my school pony. He was a broncho with four brands, one on each quarter, but he was old when

we got him; his white eyelashes gave him a sleepy look, and he was considered safe for children. In all fairness to the unwary, he should have borne the caption "let the buyer beware," as well as his brands. We bought him from a man who said he was on his way to join up—that was in the first World War. When we got to know Pants better, we could easily understand why the man could not find a buyer closer to home.

When the deal was closed, he laid his head against the white arch of the horse's neck and made as if he were heartbroken. Later, when we heard that he had become a trouper in the

Dumb Bells overseas show we were not surprised. He had won Pants in a raffle and thought himself lucky, until he started riding back to the farm where he worked. According to stories that came our way afterwards, Pants had kept everyone around that place in a continual state of exasperation.

The climax came the day Pants walked up the ramp into the haymow, climbed the highest peak, and then fell down between the wall and the mountain of hay. It was necessary to fork a ton or so of fodder before they could get him out. That settled it. Pants was saddled and his owner set out on a 40-mile tour, looking for a sucker. We were it.

PANTS was not a mean horse as long as you treated him right, but during his many years on range and farm he had acquired a few aggravating tricks, and had become a master of craftiness and escape. He was easy to ride, having the gentle motion of a rocking chair, but this he frequently broke by shying at anything and everything. He would give a sudden shiver and bound off the road, giving you the benefit of several stiff-legged jumps. Then, if you didn't lay on the switch, he got the notion you were afraid of him and he would sneak along with his head down, shying every time you urged him on.

You could not catch Pants anywhere, unless he was trailing a bridle rein. You could chase him all over the out-of-doors, and he would keep just ahead, running or walking as the occasion demanded, but always out of reach, looking back from time to time to see how you were doing.

It is said that most animals, other than humans, have a sense of humor. Pants had one, as long as he was on the laughing end of a situation. I went out to feed him one morning and get him ready for school. He was not in the barn where I had left him, although both doors were closed. He was in the flax bin. I had to walk that day, and after school I took him down to the slough to clean him up. He liked the water and seemed to view the whole affair as a good joke.

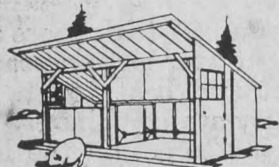
The Grain Growers sponsored a picnic on July 1, and I was to go—just as soon as I had finished hoeing four rows of potatoes. I dolled up in a white dress, with a red sash and matching ribbons for my braids, then strutted off to the barn to saddle Pants. He wasn't there, but his halter was dangling on the end of the tie rope. I was in the same predicament as King Richard, when he shouted his famous request in days of old. But having no kingdom to offer, I started on foot for the picnic, horse or no horse. Half a mile down the road I met a white horse. It was bad luck alright. It was Pants. He had been in the neighbor's oat field, and was rounded out like a wine keg. Spit on the ground? A more effective measure was necessary. I chased Pants home and was delighted when he made straight for the barn. I got a new halter and tied him securely while I saddled him. But when I slipped off the halter, so that he would look well-turned-out with his brass-studded bridle, he suddenly dropped back on his haunches, wheeled and struck the door, which swung outward; and he was away with the saddle.



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## 10 farm projects that you can build quicker, better, and at less cost with...

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Good foods are never out of season with this simple-to-build deep freeze cabinet.



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Many desirable features in this design for big low cost laying house.



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**SYLVAPLY** DOUGLAS FIR WATERPROOF-GLUE **PLYWOOD**



I chased Pants and he did his usual trotting and walking, by turns, up and down the pasture, around the edges and across the middle, to an old straw bottom. He got so far ahead that he thought it safe to roll in the straw. It was then I went for the .22 rifle. I was allowed to have it to shoot gophers. I did not aim to hit, but fired close enough to scare him, and it was by this means he was persuaded back to the barn. We finally reached the picnic grounds, but had missed the "catch the rooster" contest, and most of the races.

I recall that I was the only one of the family who was really aware of the problems Pants created. The others had little to do with him, and they were either amused or critical when I complained about him. One day Aunt Aggie announced that she was going to a homemakers' meeting; and she would drive Pants, if I would hitch him to the buggy. Aunt Aggie wasn't much used to outdoor affairs and she took quite a lot for granted. I hitched up Pants and she started off with complete confidence that all would be well. However, she did not arrive at the meeting. We never knew exactly what happened, but one minute Aunt Aggie and Pants were proceeding in good style and the next Pants had walked away from the buggy, leaving Aunt Aggie sitting there. She said she had never been so frightened in all her life. One thing was certain, Pants was a jinx. A thing like that would not happen with an ordinary, honest horse.

I finished at the little country school that summer, and Pants was on an extended holiday. One day Aunt Aggie called me and said grimly, "Billie, we'll simply have to get rid of that horse. He has just nipped off all my sweet peas and rolled on the petunia bed." So Pants was sold for five dollars to a family across the creek, who had a number of school-age children. They said they knew what they were getting, but could not afford to pass it up at that price. Pants was assigned to pulling a school cart with five sturdy youngsters in it. One day the kids thought they would get even with him by teasing him during noon hour. When they came to put his bridle on after school, he cornered one of them in the manger and they had to send for help.

But old age was beginning to claim Pants. He died that winter. When spring came and crops began to show green, the father of the family came over looking very grave. "That white horse was bad luck," he said. "I know there is alkali in my soil, but it always grew a crop until this year. For acres around where I hauled him out, there is not a blade in sight. I spat many times all around it, too. I should have cremated him in the strawpile," he concluded bitterly.

Looking back, it seems that Pants did me a service besides providing transportation. In learning to cope with him I believe I was better prepared to face the issues of adult life than I otherwise would have been.

The days of the horse are largely past. Now, when you start off on a drive, you don't, as a rule, meet a horse of any color. Horse lovers, however, are still with us. You can usually identify them. They are the rugged

individuals who are fundamentally shy and sentimental by nature. In these days, when sky and space have so much to offer, it is not too fantastic for them to picture their dream horses in the clouds. On a quiet summer day among white fluffy clouds one can sometimes see horses. Horses being let out to pasture, horses at the water trough, a heavy draft team prancing along with a wagon, pacers in harness, and a thoroughbred poised on a hill-top. But Pants is not among any of these. Oh, no! He has a little blue patch all his own. He can be seen jiggling along at a leisurely pace looking back at somebody running behind. v

## Barbed Wire Party Line

by DON MEADE

IT has often been said that if you give a Canadian farmer a piece of wire and a pair of pliers, he can fix anything. A. M. Falconer, who lives four miles from Invermere, British Columbia, has proved the point.

Recently when he and his sister-in-law, Mrs. George Annis, applied for a party telephone, the telephone company refused. They claimed that there were too many parties on the line already.

Undaunted, Mr. Falconer set up a wall phone, and put in two ordinary telephone batteries. At the home of Mrs. Annis, two miles away, he did the same thing. They connected their phones to the top strand of a barbed wire fence that ran between them.

Today, they enjoy a completely private party line, says Mr. Falconer. They are not bothered by electrical storms, and conversation comes over clearer than any party line he has used.

During the depression, says Mr. Falconer, many Saskatchewan telephones were disconnected. That was where he learned to use the barbed wire party line. v



### "There are still some things you have to learn thru' experience"

More and more young farm people are taking advantage of today's extensive farm training—and becoming highly trained in the technical side of farming.

But there are many things about farming that can only be learned through experience.

Take the business of buying farm equipment—tractor tires for example. The way they all look so much alike these days, it's hard to know just what make is best for you.

If you don't have Goodyear Super Sure-Grips now, here's what we suggest you do. Take advantage of the experience other people have had with Super Sure-Grips—right in your neighborhood! Ask a man who uses Super Sure-Grips how they perform in your local soil conditions.

We're willing to let the man who uses these tires speak for us. We rest our case on what your neighbor says.

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## SUPER SURE-GRIP TRACTOR TIRES

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**P.S.** If you own a light truck: It doesn't pay to use auto tires on your light truck. A better buy is Hi-Miler Rib Truck Tires. They're built stronger to take truck work—yet they cost less than standard 6-ply auto tires!

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## 'MERGAMMA' C

This letter was written by Mr. Abe Reimer, Hussar, Alta., to Chipman Chemicals Limited.

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"My land, which has been farmed for twenty years, was so infested with wireworms that I was only getting a return of 10 bushels of wheat per acre. But after treating my seed with 'Mergamma' C, the yield jumped to 35 bushels per acre. My neighbors report that they, too, have increased their yields considerably by using 'Mergamma' C."

### HERE ARE OTHER LETTERS:

"Over a period of years I have had yield increases of from 8 to 9 bushels per acre by using 'Mergamma' C—an increase of about \$10 to \$12 per acre. I recommend that anyone troubled with wireworms should use 'Mergamma' C."

D. GORANSON, WEYBURN, SASK.

"That 'Mergamma' C is great stuff! You can see the difference in the stubble between the area where I used 'Mergamma' C and where I didn't. I believe the only way to find out if there are wireworms in your soil is to try 'Mergamma' C."

WM. HOGAN, OYEN, ALTA.

'MERGAMMA' C is the original, proven, dual-purpose seed dressing . kills wireworms and controls seed-borne diseases in ONE operation.

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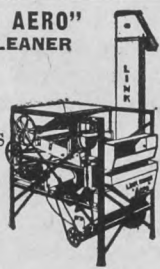
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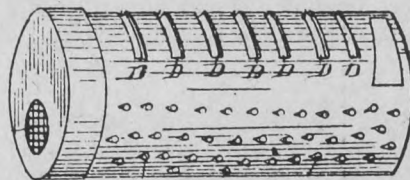


### Odd and Interesting

(One in a series of farm inventions from the files of the U.S. Patent Office)

by MIKE RIVISE

OUT of dreams come ideas. Ideas like this one: Robert Gardiner of Hamilton, discovered a pleasant way to get rid of Mickey Mouse's dozens of cousins and the pesky house fly. He invented a "Combined Grocer's Package, Grater, Slicer, and Mouse and Fly Trap."



What an opportunity for an advertising genius! What a chance for an eye-catching slogan! "Universal Home-maker's Friend! Marvellous gift for young brides! Free, from your grocer! Saves keeping a cat! Works for you day and night!"

Anyway, Mr. Gardiner used thousands of words and many diagrams to describe the intricate workings of this contraption, but he never actually provided the patent office with a working model.

However, rather than insist on getting a complete model and contents, the patent examiners probably decided it would be easier and more pleasant to grant Mr. Gardiner a patent. This was done on July 6, 1897, under No. 586025.

### Bitterness In Potatoes

POTATOES, like people, are apt to become bitter if conditions of weather and environment are unsuitable. The wet, cold growing season experienced on the prairies last year kept garden produce in an immature state later in the season than usual. Research at the University of Alberta indicates that immature tubers are very likely to become bitter under certain environmental conditions, such as low temperatures and a high light intensity. Growers unwittingly encourage bitterness under such weather conditions, by leaving newly dug tubers to dry in the sun, or by covering them lightly with hay or straw for a few days because winter storage quarters are still warm.

Analysis of bitter tubers by the Horticulture Division at the University, shows this condition to be caused by abnormally high amounts of a poisonous compound called *solanine*. While bitter potatoes are by no means a new complaint, the build-up of *solanine* in potatoes during 1954 was far greater than any previously recorded. In a score or more of the many samples submitted for testing, the level of the poison was from three to four times as much as is usually regarded as the danger level for human or livestock consumption.

Under a grant from the National Research Council, the Plant Science Department of the University has been studying conditions which lead to an abnormal build-up of *solanine*. It has been found that time and depth of planting, and degree of row-hilling, do

not cause tuber bitterness directly, but they do contribute to immaturity, which is one of the factors of bitterness. Soil type and fertility, too, have no apparent relation to bitterness, but potato variety does. The most susceptible variety is the Netted Gem, followed by Katahdin and Carter's Early Favorite, but attempts to induce bitterness in the Irish Cobbler were unsuccessful.

SUNBURNED potatoes are generally bitter. This is not because sunburning itself causes high *solanine*, but because both are the result of exposure to light. By careful adjustment of light, greened tubers can be produced that are not bitter, but they can be made very bitter by the same method, without showing any external or internal discoloration. Potatoes, therefore, can be bitter without showing any visible symptoms.

High, night temperatures, excessively low storage temperatures (below 36° F.) and low levels of phosphorus, help produce a high *solanine* content. This effect is speeded up if any illumination is present—even a 25-watt light, or a small cellar window will increase the trouble. Under such conditions, Netted Gems will reach the danger level of *solanine* content in from three to four weeks, although other factors, such as tuber maturity and depth of tubers in the bin will lessen the build-up effect.

Several reports have been received of human illness apparently caused by *solanine* poisoning from eating bitter potatoes. In all cases where suspected tubers were analyzed, they were found to contain from two to four times the amount normally considered dangerous.

Bitterness is more concentrated in baked potatoes than in boiled ones, because, in the former, there is no loss of *solanine* in peeling or by leaching into boiling water. When gravy or butter is used with the vegetables, bitterness might be hard to detect because of the action of these oily substances on the taste buds and throat—a rough test can be made by eating a small slice of raw tuber. Bitter potatoes, are not a complete loss to the farmer. If they are of good stock they can be used for seed tubers because the poison cannot be transmitted to the new crop in any way.

### Hardy Aberdeen-Angus

J. RODOLPHE LAFRANCE, young black-cattle enthusiast, who runs a cow herd of 25 Aberdeen-Angus on his three quarter-sections at St. Paul, Alberta, does it with hardly a building. The cows winter at the straw stack in a nearby coulee, where they are fed hay and seek the shelter of a grove of trees if the winds blow strong. Usually, he brings cows into the small stable at the barnyard to freshen, and puts them back to the coulee a couple of days later. Often, they freshen before he anticipates them. He has had cows freshen outside in bitter January weather and the calves lose a few ears from the frost, but they have apparently suffered no more ill effects than that.

In fact, he says, there is no question about it, the polled blacks are hardy under western conditions.—D.R.B. V

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NOTE — Farms cannot be inspected after freeze-up.



# Spring Flood Water For Irrigation

*The Williamsons have been irrigating with spring run-off since 1939*



*This picture illustrates the heavy crop of hay which the Williamsons have made possible by spring-flooding diked land, with run-off water.*

THE Williamson brothers, Bob, John and George, have been well-trained by their father in the value and use of irrigation water. They have been making use of spring run-off water on their Pambrun, Sas-

katchewan, farm since well before the Russell Valley dam brought irrigation water to their back door.

In fact, they built their first dike to capture run-off from the land in 1939. The land sloped gently from the

northwest toward their flat low acres, and they soon had 40 acres that could be spring flooded from the five dikes. Water was held on the land for a few days in the spring, then released, and the alfalfa and brome which they seeded was yielding two tons of good hay to the acre.

Now, with the boys buying land of their own, spring flooding isn't being neglected. George has two sections of land himself, but with 150 acres irrigated from Russell Creek, he still figures that spring run-off water is too valuable to lose. A dike along the bottom of one field draining a high crest of land to the west, floods 180 acres in the spring, and he allows water to lie on the land for a week. In 1949, those 180 flat acres averaged 40 bushels of wheat per acre, while alongside, land not flooded was hardly worth cutting.

George tried to interest himself in cattle, but without success. He got rid of the herd, and now grows a sizable acreage of grass seed to help keep plenty of fibre in the soil. Grass seed can be a profitable crop, too, and the brothers who work together, are expanding this phase of their farming. George is growing the new Russian wild rye, and the alkali-resistant tall wheatgrass. Included in Bob's grass-seed acreage are intermediate wheatgrass, and the low-growing heavily rooted Stream Bank wheatgrass, which is used for irrigation ditches.—D.R.B.



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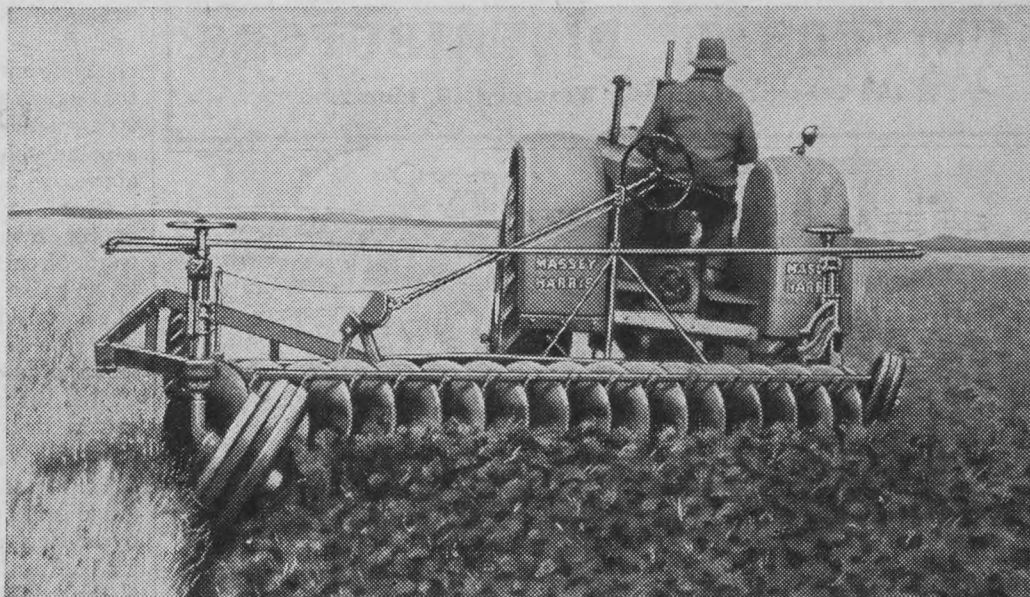
A finishing rub with Absorbine can prevent lay-offs due to galled shoulders or sore necks. By treating bruises and swellings with Absorbine early, it's possible to prevent a more serious case of ring-bone or bog spavin. Does not blister skin. Only \$2.50 for large bottle at all druggists.

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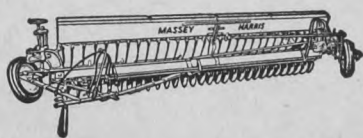
They'll be rushed to you FREE send stamp for postage, please. Plant them early, many will bloom this fall - all next year. Write today! Free "Growing Flowers" Catalog Only one offer per family. **TOBE'S St. Catharines, 208, Ont.**

## These Massey-Harris soil management machines are engineered for longer service



509 One-Way Disc gives longer service and better trash coverage because of exclusive M-H Roto-Lift, which raises or lowers the discs gently but positively.

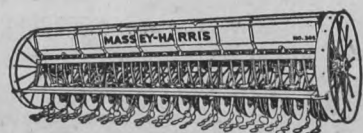
26 Wide Level Disc Harrow also has Roto-Lift, the finest lift mechanism in the industry. Leaves trash well-anchored to preserve moisture. In 9, 12, or 15-foot widths.



28 Trash King in this new 7-foot size is a heavy-duty cultivator for surface or subsoil cultivation. Specially designed for average-size tractors on small farms. Also 10 and 12-foot sizes. Wide choice of teeth.



306 Seed Drill will give light, medium or heavy penetration as required. Constant height mechanical lift. Design eliminates bunching, missing or skipping of seed.



Here, for the better management of your soil, are some of the Massey-Harris tillage machines that have proven themselves where proof counts—in the field! Long before they reach the dealer's showroom, they've been track-tested and modified, field-tested and improved again. They've been engineered to last for years and to keep running without costly breakdowns.

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TERMS 25% WITH ORDER—  
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## Patterson Favors Silage

*Maximum production at minimum cost is the ambition of this leading British dairyman*

**S**PEAKING to the annual meeting of the Dairy Farmers of Canada in Regina in January, English dairyman Rex Patterson, of Hampshire, contended that dairy farmers should pay attention to the amount of milk produced *per acre*, not just the amount produced per cow. A farmer wishing to lower his costs by increased output can do it more rapidly by concentrating on his crops instead of his cows. Improvement through breeding is slow and sometimes disappointing, while with adequate moisture and fertilizer, crop improvement can be very rapid. Sometimes a better utilization of feed can be obtained by carrying a few extra cows instead of trying to increase the yield per cow.

Choice of food is important too, in cutting milk production costs. A liberal use of grain and concentrates may increase a cow's output, but the gains can easily be wiped out by the increased costs. New Zealand farmers, who produce some of the cheapest milk in the world, do it mainly on grass, grass silage, or hay. If we accept the fact that suitable grass and clover, well managed, can be among the best feeds to grow (where conditions permit), the next problem is the preservation of the surplus growth so they can be used during the winter months.

One of the best ways is to put up your forage surplus as silage, and the cheapest and most economical type is the horizontal silo. There are several types of these: one is the trench silo, situated either below ground, or above, with walls of wood or other material; another is the single or double-ended wedge, built either outwards from a bank, or on ground level; and a third is the mound, built like an upside-down saucer by driving onto the heap from all sides. The latter exposes too much surface to frost if left for winter, but can be fed out in dry weather during summer months.

Proper sealing is a must if good silage is to be made. This can be done by driving a tractor over the surface for half an hour a day for one week, if the silo has been packed evenly.

When a trench is filled, the sides against the wall must be tightly packed or there will be serious waste; dumping grass along the middle of the trench and leaving the sides shallow is asking for rain damage down the sides.

The right quality of grass must be grown to make good silage, it must be cut at the proper stage, and under favorable conditions. It should be young, leafy, and not too wet—grass approaching the hay stage will not pack well, nor will it compare with young forage for milk production. If excessive moisture is avoided, and the silage packed well, no preservation will be needed.

On the Patterson farms, silage grass is the surplus taken off early in the season as part of an alternate cutting and grazing pasture management program. Silage is fed outside on the ground, instead of by the self-feeding

By all means marry. If you get a good wife you will become very happy; if you get a bad one, you will become a philosopher, and that is good for every man.—Socrates.

method, because feed supplies last twice as long that way. Self-feeding was found to improve the condition of cattle, but there was no gain in milk yield for the extra silage consumed.

Rex Patterson runs 3,000 head of cattle on his 7,000 acres of English farm land, and is considered one of the world's outstanding authorities on silage and dairy equipment. He is the inventor of the Patterson buck rake; a device which picks up mown grass, carries it right to the silo, and dumps it exactly where required. The tractor-mounted device turns the silage operation into a one-man job. On the average it takes between five and six man-hours to cut, carry, store, and seal in the feed from one acre—this will feed a cow (receiving nothing else) for 120 days. These methods require little capital, operating expenses are low, and the cows make economical gains in weight and milk yield, without any supplemental feeding of grain. V



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# About the Cattle Cycle

*It resembles the business cycle more than does any other cycle in agriculture*

**C**ATTLE on United States farms have swung up and down through five complete cycles since 1880, and are now about mid-way through a sixth. These remarkably uniform cycles vary in length between 10 and 16 years, while the fluctuations in cattle populations range from 23 to 35 per cent. Equally pronounced, but less regular, have been the cycles of annual slaughterings and prices.

Price declines in the present price cycle began in 1952. There was some recovery during last year, but by November prices still showed reductions ranging from 26 per cent for prime slaughter steers to 57 per cent for slaughter cows, below the peak prices of 1951. Meanwhile, slaughter of all cattle and calves had advanced from 26 million head in 1951 to 39.5 million head in 1954, during which time beef production rose from 8.8 billion to almost 13 billion pounds. American consumers, restricted to the 55 pounds of beef per person available in 1951, found themselves surfeited with 78 or 79 pounds by 1954. At first glance a simple case of overproduction,—pointing up the relationship between livestock inventories, cattle slaughterings, and prices,—the situation nevertheless, cannot be analyzed as readily as one might think.

A period of low prices generally stirs both popular and professional interest in the cattle cycle. In the 1920's a general price-and-supply analysis was made in an attempt to associate the production of a commodity in a given year with prices the preceding year, working on the assumption that good prices brought increased production, which in turn brought decreased prices, until production eased again. A price-supply relationship was successfully established for hogs through the hog-corn price ratio (3:10). But try as they might, economists were unable to demonstrate a connection between prices of cattle at one time and volume of production at a later time—witness the increased slaughterings from 1951 to 1954, in the face of falling prices.

**M**ORE than any recurring fluctuation in agriculture, the cattle cycle bears a strong resemblance to the over-all business cycle. All such cycles are based on the management of capital goods of high investment cost, which have a long production life. In the cattle game these "goods" are represented by breeding stock. A productive life of five years is considered necessary for the investment in a cow to be returned; and then only if an adequate salvage price is received by sale of the discarded animal as beef.

There are two schools of thought as to where cattle cycles originate. One maintains that they are generated within the cattle industry itself, by the normal pull of supply and demand, and the other that they are caused by outside influences such as changes in the feed supply. However, when several million cattle producers decide, individually, to raise more cattle, they probably consider every fact—both in-

side and outside the industry—that will serve as a guide to future moves. The price of cattle may enter into most decisions, but producers must also consider the complications of financial investment, a long cattle-cycle, and the scarcity of alternatives.

The concept of a cycle in cattle can be valuable to the industry in predict-

ing short-run prospects through the use of an annual "balance sheet" of cattle numbers, as an aid, rather than a basis of prediction. There is a notable regularity in the disposition of each class of livestock at successive phases of the cycle.

Some interesting facts have been brought to light in this manner. For one thing, the disposition of calves is the controlling factor in cyclical changes. The slaughter of cows and heifers is a low proportion of the total cattle slaughter in early stages of the cycle, and a higher proportion later. Prices of feeder cattle also tend to be high in the first stages. On the other

hand, the slaughter of steers works the opposite way, rising to a high just before the midpoint in the total cycle. When cattle numbers are being expanded most rapidly, steers form the highest percentage of all slaughter: but when expansion slows, prices of lower-grade slaughter cattle are depressed more than those of higher grades.

The disposition of calves as the controlling factor in these changes, however, is worth remembering. This would indicate that the ten per cent increase in calf slaughter in 1954 is a better indicator of future trends than the 14 per cent increase in cow slaughter.

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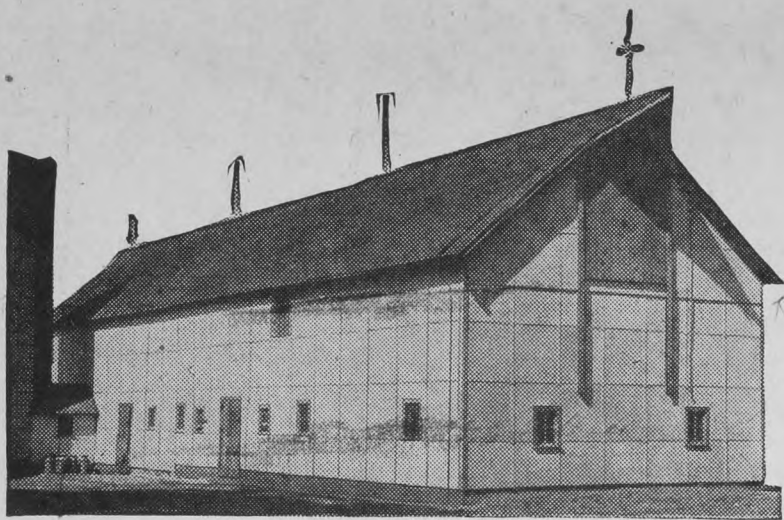


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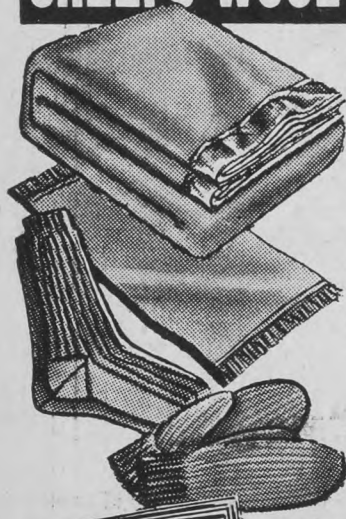
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## Rolling Hills: Product of Irrigation

by R. S. RUST

**T**HE thriving community of Rolling Hills is situated in the south-eastern part of Alberta. In 1938, Rolling Hills was just a name for an expanse of prairie, in the offices of the Eastern Irrigation Districts at Brooks. Today, it is a flourishing, heavily settled farming community of some 350 families. The rapid growth of the community and the increased prosperity of its farmers are due mainly to one factor—irrigation.

In the years following the extreme drought in southern Saskatchewan, the federal P.F.R.A. officers at Regina were looking for new areas in which prosperous farming operations might be carried on, and in which the dried-out farmers of Saskatchewan might be rehabilitated. The Rolling Hills area was a perfect answer to their quest. In spite of the name, the majority of the land was a level plain. The soil was a rich loam, untouched by the plow. Years before, the old C.P.R. Irrigation Company had constructed the main ditches necessary to supply the land with water. All that was needed was an agreement with the Eastern Irrigation District, which had taken over the irrigation interests of the C.P.R.

In the summer of 1938 an agreement was reached, and P.F.R.A. officials started negotiations with Saskatchewan farmers who had been hardest hit by drought conditions. In order to receive new land at Rolling Hills, each farmer had to agree to turn over to the government his equity in his Saskatchewan farmland. When reclaimed, this land was seeded down to grass and turned into large community pastures. By the agreement, the farmers were relieved of all Saskatchewan land debts and given free transportation for themselves and their settlers' effects, to Rolling Hills. The P.F.R.A. also promised to assist them in becoming established during the first two years. At the end of two years, the responsibilities of the P.F.R.A. were to end, and the district and its farmers were to be entirely under the control of the Eastern Irrigation District. The E.I.D. agreed, on its part, to supply irrigation water to the area by the summer of 1939.

**T**HE first large migration to the new area started in the spring of 1939 and continued at a slower rate for the next two or three years, as more land became irrigable. Though the settlers were given free transportation, the value of their property was little. The livestock were for the most part, in poor shape and below average quality. The machinery was old, worn out, and patched with makeshift devices. For the first two years, many of the settlers lived in tents and granaries.

A few, though it was a very few, found the new life worse than living on relief in Saskatchewan, and left the district. The majority continued to work, to build, and to learn to use irrigation water correctly.

By 1943, the good crop yields and the steadily increasing prices of farm produce made the success of the new community a certainty. New farm

homes were built, new machinery bought and better livestock were being sold. Up to this time, most of the farmers' money had been spent on essentials. The next few years greatly changed the picture, and new cars, trucks, refrigerators and household conveniences were purchased at a steadily increasing rate.

As the years went by the district became more and more prosperous. In fact, after a federal government survey of the main irrigation systems in Alberta in 1950, it was found that net profits were higher per farm in the Rolling Hills district than elsewhere in the province. Not only were profits high, but capital investments compared favorably with the older-established irrigation areas.

The town of Rolling Hills is not large, but meets the needs of the community. Its population is about 150 people. The co-operative attitude of the people of the district resulted in a community hall, in which public gatherings, dances and community picture shows take place twice a week. The modern six-room school, which was built five years ago, is entirely up to date. Electricity is now supplied to the majority of the farms by the Calgary Power Co. A natural gas well was drilled close to town some time ago. Natural gas has been found comparatively near the surface. The town has one processing plant, producing flax tow and alfalfa meal. There is a good demand for these products, and the small plant is able to operate the year around. Though coal is not immediately available, a new mine has started operations just 15 miles away. This has decreased the cost of fuel and does bring added business to the town.

In the 16 years since the establishment of Rolling Hills, many changes have taken place. Some of the farms have been sold. The majority of these have been purchased by residents who wished to increase their holdings. As a result of this, farms are now generally larger than in the earlier years. Though the returns per acre have dropped, the larger units have tended to keep the net returns per farm at a comfortable level. Ill health and deaths have taken their toll, but the bulk of the population remains the same, the only noticeable difference being that the farmers' sons are doing a larger share of the active farming, while their fathers are doing the odd jobs.

In the next 15 years, many changes will undoubtedly take place. By then, the memory of the dried-out, hungry years in southern Saskatchewan, may be nothing but a faint recollection of the long ago.





# High School Credit Union

by A. L. KIRKBY

THE old adage of "a penny saved is a penny earned" has had the moths well shaken out of it permanently, in Alberni's junior-senior high school in British Columbia.

Students of this institution receive the credit for being the first "juniors" in this province, if not in Canada, to successfully form and carry on a regularly constituted credit union, chartered as a society under the laws of B.C. and affiliated with the B.C. Credit Union League and similar leagues across Canada.

Ivor Mills, a staff member of the school, spent much of his leisure time studying the workings of credit unions. Keenly interested in the welfare of young people, and Alberni students in particular, he could foresee a wonderful advantage to the students were they to operate their own "bank." They would be teaching themselves care and wisdom in the management of their own resources; they would have a good start on savings for their education or special courses; and their education would be greatly added to in the experience gained through doing their own bookkeeping and managing of their own financial affairs.

Mr. Mills took his idea to the school, where it received enthusiastic backing from all members of the staff. Accordingly, in April, 1951, this unique club was formed and became known as "The School Savings Society."

It was duly registered as a society according to law. The provincial credit union inspector, T. A. Switzer, visited the society and it was formally inaugurated. Maureen Gregory, a grade eight student, at that time, was elected the first "chief teller."

From the very beginning the club got off to a promising start, and during the first three months of operation had saved \$1,000 and registered 250 members. Today it has been extended to other schools in the district. Numerous inquiries have been received from schools throughout B.C.; and one of the prairie provinces now plans on introducing the scheme throughout its schools. It is also a savings media, not only for all school children, but for pre-school children as well. This is truly a young peoples' "bank," never

*Students of Alberni, B.C., have their own credit union and savings of \$12,000*

intended in any way to oppose the services of banks, but rather to extend those services to people who could not ordinarily enjoy them. After three years of operation the success of the venture seems assured for years to come. It has turned over more than \$25,000 in savings, loans and withdrawals. It has registered a total of 813 members, and has maintained a steady membership of 627, after graduates and drop-outs have been deducted. In June, 1953, it passed the \$10,000 mark in savings. The society has an accommodation loan service up to \$10 for one month, interest free. It has set up a flexible scholarship fund, designed to reach a maximum of \$250 as the society grows in membership. Several students have enjoyed this service to date. During the summer months business is carried on at the local credit union office. A permanent treasurer has now been appointed to handle school accounts only. Largely through the school society the senior union's assets have been greatly boosted.

To develop a worthwhile educational value from the society, Mr. Mills hoped the students would operate on their own, and this has been achieved. Teachers act only in a supervisory capacity. Each room in the school has its own teller, elected by the students of that room, his or her duties being to receive the savings for the room and issue necessary receipts. The

**The only sure way to make a garden a success is to not plant any more space than your wife can successfully manage.—Dan Bennett.**

teller, in turn, hands the collections over to the chief collector, a student elected from one of the senior grades. This student makes out the collection sheets, keeps the ledger posted and does the bulk of the book work usually associated with "banking." An invaluable experience is here gained in bookkeeping. None of the members receive any remuneration for their services.

Members are encouraged to save as much as possible and are expected to save a minimum of \$5.00 each year. A "drive" is never made for new members; rather, it is felt that the desire to join should first emanate from the student.

Loans must be for an educational purpose, personal improvement, professionally, in a trade, culturally, or at an acknowledged place of learning. Students obtaining educational loans are not required to make repayment till the courses have been completed. The interest rate is low and all loans and savings are insured. Up to the end of February last year, the society had over \$11,000 in savings and it expected to pass the \$12,000 mark easily before the end of 1954. Average weekly collections have been \$230, and student interest in the society is growing steadily.



*Arlene Forbes, assistant district treasurer, and Mrs. A. Dent, treasurer, receive C.U. savings from supervisor Ivor Mills.*

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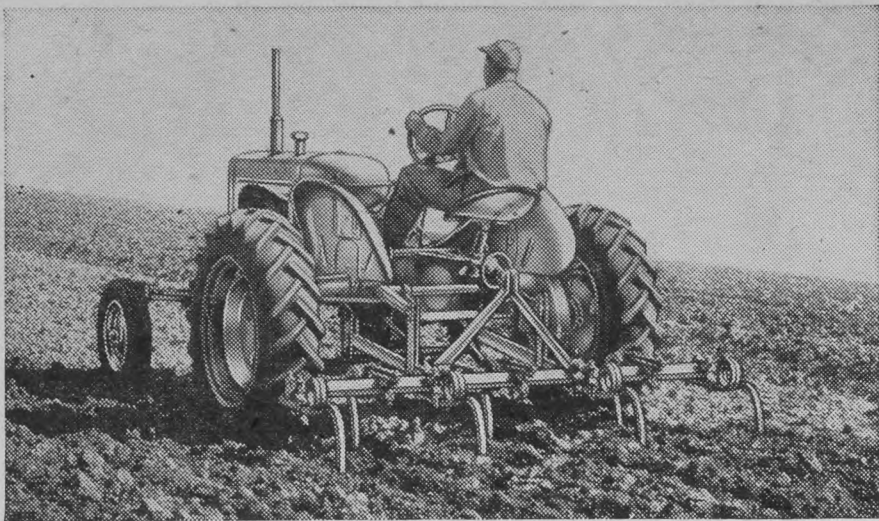
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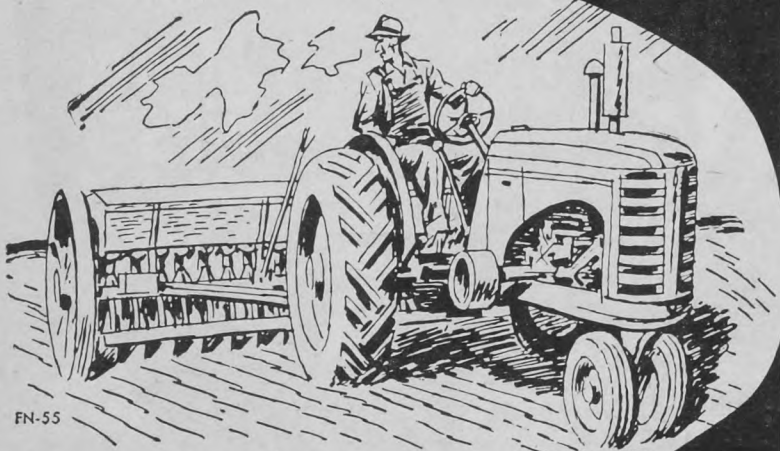
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Here are Alphonse Fontaine, Marcel Chevette, district agriculturist, and Leon Fontaine, examining the good silage.

## Self-Feeding Silage To Beef Cows

*Building a self-feeding gate for the silo  
reduced chore time for the Fontaines*

IN 1952, Leon Fontaine and his father Alphonse, who farm two sections of land in the mixed farming district around St. Paul, northeast of Edmonton, tried silage for the first time. They built a round silo of straw bales encircled with wire, and after using it, decided that the forage was good for beef cattle.

The next step was to build something permanent, and they finally wound up with a huge concrete-lined trench silo, partially dug into the side of a hill. It was fitted with a self-feeding gate, so that cattle-feeding chores are just about over for the Fontaines. The silo is 56 feet long, 10 feet deep, 20 feet wide at the bottom and 21 feet at the top, and cost \$1,200, including labor. They like it so well that they plan to make it four feet higher.

Their 50-cow beef herd likes it, too, at least well enough to bend the steel of the self-feeding gate as they push to get at the silage. That's about all the feed the cows get, and they reach good condition for spring freshening.

The calves, which are sold as fat baby beeves at about 13 months old, haven't been fed much silage yet, but Mr. Fontaine says that a few forkfuls can reduce their grain requirements by 50 per cent.

Forty-five acres of alfalfa, brome, clover and timothy went into the silo in 1954, filling it to the top, and it was the only good feed saved during the rainy summer. The farm is equipped now with a forage harvester, a home-made false front on a wagon for unloading, and a blower to fill the silo. They put up top quality feed, no matter how wet the weather, and plan to make more next year.

The Fontaine steer-feeding quarters are of interest too, where the steers run in winter, getting chop from the farm-grown grains, mixed with 24 per cent protein supplement. Along one side of the 24 by 32-foot pen hangs the chop trough, raised by chains as the litter deepens in the pen. Along the other side, is the hay manger, also hanging by chains, to be raised as the litter builds up. Both are filled through hinged doors in the wall beside them. In the summer, up go the troughs, and feeder pigs use the building.

Efficiency is good enough that Mr. Fontaine says one and one-half hours morning and night do the chores for the entire beef herd, and the dozen sows and the pigs that are fed for market.—D.R.B. V

## Weed War At Myrnam

*Co-op. seed cleaning plant in Alberta under the provincial-municipal assistance policy, is fifteenth in province*

MIXED farming is the rule around Myrnam, east of Edmonton; and grain production, both for feed and seed, is a major part of the farming program there. This means that weeds are a continual threat to profitable production. But in the belief that if you don't seed weeds, you won't grow them, farmers have joined together to build a municipal seed cleaning plant.

It's really the most recent of three built in the municipality, under the

three-way financial assistance policy of Alberta. Vegreville and Willingdon plants already are in operation, while a tide of seed is now on its way through the new one at Myrnam for the first time.

It is the fifteenth seed-cleaning plant to go up under the policy, by which the Alberta government aids co-operating groups of farmers to the extent of \$13,000 to help build the plant, providing the municipality will add a further \$13,000, and the farmers



themselves will buy shares in the co-op. to the total value of another \$13,000.

A few Myrnam district farmers started out in the fall of 1953 and soon had nearly \$15,000 pledged by weed-conscious farmers who were tired of turning the handles of their own fanning mills, or were satisfied that the only effective way to control weeds was to clean the seed with the kind of equipment that one farmer couldn't buy alone. Last fall the plant was up.

In it a multiple-cylinder indent machine, and a double-shoe, 54-inch wind-and-screen machine will do a thorough cleaning job on all the cereals and flax. It will turn back to the farmers both cleaned seed and the screenings as well, for livestock feed. Another room houses a specially designed, seed-treating machine, for those wanting to use it.

Bill Yace is the new manager of this co-op. and is directly responsible to the nine co-op. directors. The provincial

government, through its Special Projects Branch, helps the new plants get started. F. F. Parkinson, former agricultural engineer at the Olds School of Agriculture, and supervisor of this branch, has designed the buildings and supervised their construction, right from the start. Once the plant is up, he helps the new manager get started, but the rest is largely up to the co-op. itself.

Though the project has been in effect only a few years, 15 plants are now in operation, and Mr. Parkinson looks forward to the time when about 50 similar plants in Alberta will provide the means to clean up most of the seed grain used. Estimates now show that from 75 to 90 per cent of the grain in the district served by these plants, goes through them. The rush of grain has been so great that many of the plants have been forced to 24-hour operation. In 1952, the Westlock plant hummed through three shifts a day right from the first of November to the 24th of May.—D.R.B. ✓

## Fresh Vegetables Despite Short Summers

*Home gardeners can beat the short season with yields of green peppers, tomatoes and other crops*

by DON BARON

**L**OW temperatures with frequent frosts during May, together with the short summers in parts of western Canada, make it difficult for gardeners to ripen some of the vegetables that can be easily grown in other parts of the country.

However, the horticultural division at the Scott Experimental Station in Saskatchewan is demonstrating that home gardeners can grow many of these crops by capturing a little more solar heat every sunny day. It requires a small additional cost, but the satisfaction of growing their own and eating them fresh from the garden will be ample reward for many.

Extra heat can be concentrated on the plant by placing plastic tents (advertised in seed catalogs for a nickel each or less) over the seedlings or seeds when they are planted. Another method tried at Scott, is the use of miniature glass greenhouses. The Experimental Station purchased wire greenhouse frames from England, and had glass cut to fit over them. Another and cheaper method, and one which has given good results is to use *black asphalt paper*. This is laid flat on the ground and the seedlings or seeds planted under it. Cross slits are made in the paper, and folded back, allowing the plants to grow through. Earth is thrown over the edges of the paper to prevent the wind blowing it away. *Tarpaper cannot be used*, because it is toxic to plants.

Purpose of all these techniques is to concentrate heat of the sun on the young plants, so they will grow more rapidly. Don Dabbs, Horticulturist at Scott, points out that these methods have produced extremely good results so far. In 1952, green peppers started with Super Hotents yielded nine times as much produce as the ones without them. In 1953, tomatoes transplanted outdoors, and aided with both asphalt and Hotents, gave a significantly higher yield of large green fruit ready to be ripened indoors.

Again he pointed out that tomato seeds were planted outdoors, and these, aided by both asphalt and Hotents, gave a significantly higher yield of ripe tomatoes. Cucumbers, too were tried both with paper alone, and with paper and Hotents, and produced a higher yield of fruit.

**L**AST year, which was extremely wet and cold, glass proved the top stimulant to fast growth, especially for tomatoes and cucumbers, because it takes more heat than the others and holds it longer.

At Scott, they are still working on this promising aid to home gardeners, and feel that many people in the difficult northern garden areas can give their "green thumbs" a big assist with these.

If asphalt paper is to be used, Mr. Dabbs points out, at least 30-inch or 36-inch strips are required, and at least 12 inches of bare ground must be left between the strips. The plastic tents can only be used for one year, because they must be gradually cut open as the plants grow, allowing them more air till they are hardy enough to live alone. When glass is used, too much sunshine might burn the plants, so white latex-base paint can be dobbed on the glass to protect them. A piece of cord soaked in kerosene, tied around the base of a gallon jug and ignited, will remove the bottom of the jug, and Mr. Dabbs says that these have been effective too. ✓



*These Hotents extended the vegetable growing season at Scott, Sask.*

*Too many  
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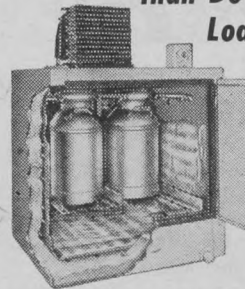
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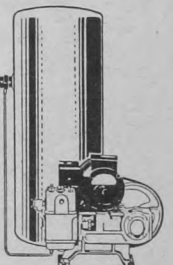


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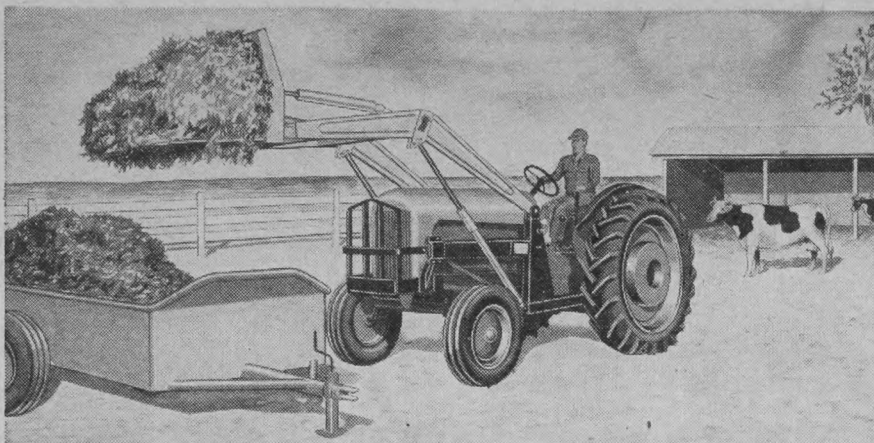
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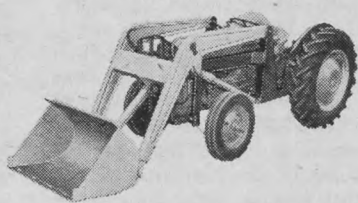
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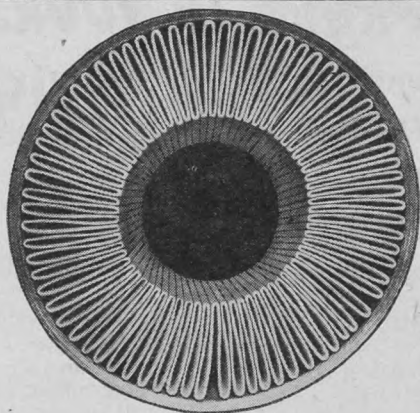
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## Pheasants: Grand And Otherwise

*A reminiscence of the hunting season in an area where pheasants are abundant*

by AUDREY PATON

**W**E moved to this locality in July, 1953, and were pleased to see that we were in the land where the pheasants abound.

I had never seen a pheasant, so had untold pleasure out of these cunning, cagey birds. The cock pheasant is a picture to behold, with his beautiful plumage; the hen is a little drab by comparison. Their call is a harsh caw-caw, sounding quite like a rusty hinge.

My husband is a grain buyer at this point and very often brings grain home in his clothes, when this is swept up it is thrown out where the pheasants can get it. We soon had six or eight regular visitors, but they took flight the first day of the shooting.

The hunting season for pheasants and some other birds opened on Thanksgiving Day. What a day it was! At break of day the shooting started, and as the morning grew the bombardment was really on. Beautiful cars loaded with hunters from the city went past the house by the score. By noon the severest of the attack was over, but shooting persisted all day and for days to follow.

We have an excellent grocery store across the tracks, and our grocer was completely cleared out of rolls, wieners, bread, butter, cold meats, cookies, bars, fruit, and other snack lines. There was also a heavy buy on cigarettes, cigars and soft drinks.

Then came the day of the crash. It will not soon be forgotten. It was

nearly noon. Dinner was well ready, the table set, and I was relaxing with a book of Nellie McClung's, sitting in the wheel chair by the stove. Then there was a thunderous crash. A window smashed, the gas lamp was knocked to the table, dishes went flying, and the gas lamp rolled to the floor. I thought it a misguided bullet, and was indeed thankful I was not in line. The gas lamp began to leak, and as I went to right it, I saw a pheasant in a dazed condition sitting on the floor. Then it was all very clear. My husband came in shortly, and did he get a surprise! Just then a friend came in; he was from the city, and he got a surprise, too. My husband caught the pheasant and claimed he could not kill it, but he did.

Pheasants are so cunning that they are mighty hard to shoot. Several hunters from the city came in for water from our grand artesian well, and they said they had shot much, but to no avail. They claimed that by nightfall if they did not bag a bird, there would be guns for sale cheap!

The hunting seasons, both for animals and birds, are the delight of many a man. It is a good, clean, wholesome sport and men thrive on it. As much as I like the pheasants I'm looking forward to the next season.

Pheasants, fried or roasted, are grand eating. They seem to have the taste of a cross between a turkey and a chicken. V

## Time Clocks On the Farm

*Health insurance and a time clock helped banish labor troubles for a U.S. farmer*

**A**T least one U.S. farmer has found an answer to the farm laborer's age-old beef about long hours. Hired men on the 2,030-acre grain and livestock farm of John D. Schindler of Audrain County, Missouri, punch a time clock and are paid for every minute they put in. Neither Schindler nor any of his seven full-time hired hands has any desire to return to the daily, weekly, or monthly pay system.

The farm's time clock (complete with card rack) is located in a small building Schindler has set aside as a lunchroom for those of his employees who pack a lunch. Permanent hands receive \$1.00 an hour, a house to live in (or the rent equivalent), telephone, electricity, water, and a hog or two to help the meat ration along. Pay day on the farm comes at the end of each week, and each cheque contains a stub showing wages, social security payments, and other deductions.

In addition, Schindler carries a \$5,000 group health and accident insurance policy on his men—this covers them either on or off duty, and pays \$100 a month for loss of time, plus costs of nursing or hospitalization. The policy also provides a \$2,500, 20-year endowment, which gives an employee \$7,500 worth of protection during the

first 15 years. For the first year of employment a man pays \$12.50 a month on the policy and Schindler contributes \$5.00—each year the employee stays his boss pays an additional dollar, until finally he is bearing all the cost. But the policy remains the property of the hired man—he can borrow on it, or if he quits, he can either keep it or cash it in.

The time clock and the hourly pay system has been in use on the Schindler farm for five years. It is popular with the employer because he feels free to ask his men to do overtime whenever the need arises; the men like it because they know they will be paid for every minute of that overtime. In a typical week, time cards show that Schindler's men started at about 5:45 a.m., quit at 7:30 p.m., and had 50 minutes for lunch. Monthly earnings vary from \$240 to \$300, depending on the season. Hourly pay is just as practical for a small farm as for a large one, although a small operator needn't go to the expense of a time clock.

By bringing industrial methods to his farm labor problem, Schindler finds that he loses very few hired hands to industry. The time clock has given him a steady, reliable labor force. V





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## Science And the Farm

*Some evidence of the many-sided approach of scientists to farm problems*

Chicks fed on modern rations have tended to develop hemorrhages under the skin. This is because some of the antibiotics produce an acid condition which tends to reduce the ability of the blood to clot. Scientists have not yet discovered just how this occurs, but they are recommending that chicks fed on disease-fighting chemicals and new growth stimulators (antibiotics) should also receive some vitamin K, which is necessary for normal blood clotting. Chicks usually make their own vitamin K in the intestinal tract, but apparently are sometimes unable to make it in sufficient quantities when fed the antibiotics. ✓

Should food become scarce for human beings, there is more than a probability that algae may provide a satisfactory protein food. In California promising experiments have been conducted testing the suitability of combining sewage disposal with algae farming. Sewage is emptied into an open pond and is seeded with algae. These in turn provide oxygen which makes the bacteria in the sewage thrive. The bacteria in turn decompose the organic material in the sewage and, in the process of decomposition, carbon dioxide is given off which stimulates the growth of algae. It is estimated that a million gallons of sewage would yield about 1,000 pounds of dry algae. In the San Francisco Bay area, for example, where about 300 million gallons of sewage are produced daily, the yield of algae would be about 150 tons. ✓

A concentration of cabbage juice can be used to heal peptic ulcers, according to the Stanford School of Medicine. Instead of drinking a quart of cabbage juice daily, one hundred ulcer patients each swallowed about three tablespoons of the concentrate. Pain was reported to have disappeared within five days, and ulcer craters healed generally in 13 to 14 days, or in the same length of time as if cabbage juice had been given. Healing time under the standard treatment of bland diet and drugs is said to average close to 50 days. Cabbage juice contains large amounts of a diet factor called "vitamin U," which is, as yet, unidentified, and is thought to fortify the digestive tract against attacks of pepsin, which is a digestive enzyme in the stomach juices that can bore into tissues and cause ulcers. ✓

Mechanical computers, to the uninitiated, are weird and wonderful instruments. Now, what is called a "ventilation analog computer," small enough to be carried by hand, has been developed to determine what system is required to control ventilation, humidity and temperature in barns. Dr. Waldo Kliever, research director for the Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Company, says that if the number of animals in a building, their heat and moisture input, and the gain or loss from various parts of the building, is fed into the computer, it will automatically calculate whether the barn needs a temperature or humidity control system, or both, and also indi-

cate what size ventilating system is required. ✓

A very much faster method of composting organic refuse into rich humus has been developed by Dr. Harold B. Gotaas at the University of California, Berkeley. It is reported that no decomposing elements or chemicals are required, but that the compost heap, properly managed, has all the elements required to convert itself into humus in 12 to 21 days. The compost heap must be turned; but properly handled, it is said to generate enough heat to promote maximum decomposition and to destroy harmful bacteria and flies. ✓

Poultry feathers, in amounts between 100 and 150 million pounds dry weight, accumulate annually in U.S. poultry processing plants. They provide a serious disposal problem because they are subject to rapid decomposition and are frequently mixed with blood, manure and other refuse. It sometimes costs \$10 to \$20 per ton to get rid of them. An inexpensive process has now been developed for converting these waste feathers into a useful fertilizer in the form of a dry meal. The meal contains 12 to 15 per cent nitrogen, 5 to 6 per cent of ash, about .6 per cent phosphorus, and .2 per cent potash. It is produced as a feather meal, which is bagged and can be stored safely for long periods, if kept dry. The meal has other uses and has been found suitable as a base for foam-producing compounds used in fighting oil fires, and as a combination with synthetic resins to produce molded plastics, as a protein feed supplement and as a component of glue for interior plywood. ✓

The hen is not responsible for poor-quality summer eggs. Thin whites and flat, weak yolks owe their poor quality to poor handling. Every hour eggs are left at high temperatures (80 to 90°F.) they drop rapidly in quality. Eggs left for a few days between 70 and 80°F. can lose as much freshness as eggs kept several weeks in a refrigerator. Scientists say to gather eggs at least three times a day in hot weather, cool them promptly, and store them above freezing, but not higher than 45°F. Keep them away from all penetrating odors. ✓

The bee breeder and the agricultural engineer are racing to see who can develop the best equipment for tripping the alfalfa flower. Recently a new pollinating machine was tried out in Minnesota and South Dakota. The inventor calls it The Mechanical Bee. In essence, the machine passes the blossoms between long upright rollers coated with foam rubber, which crush them just enough to trip the blossoms and expose the pollen. Behind the rollers is a pollination chamber where a blast of warm air dries the sticky pollen and dusts it among the flowers. Yields of 362 pounds of clean seed per acre from one two-and-one-half-acre treated field have been reported. ✓

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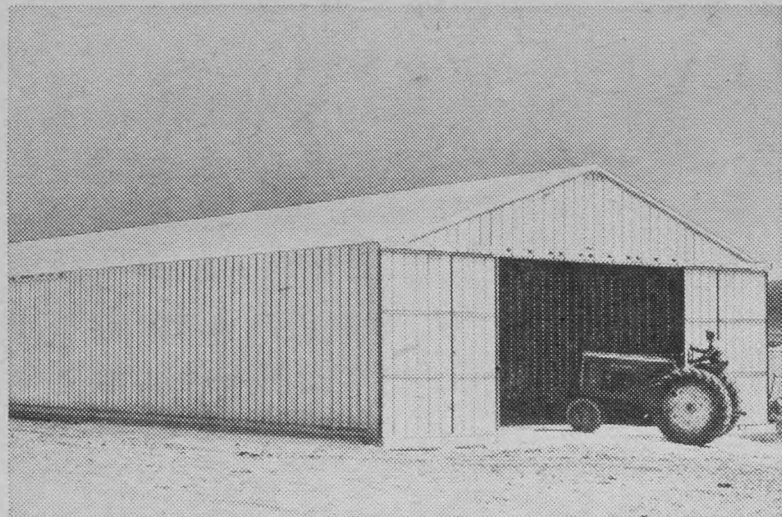
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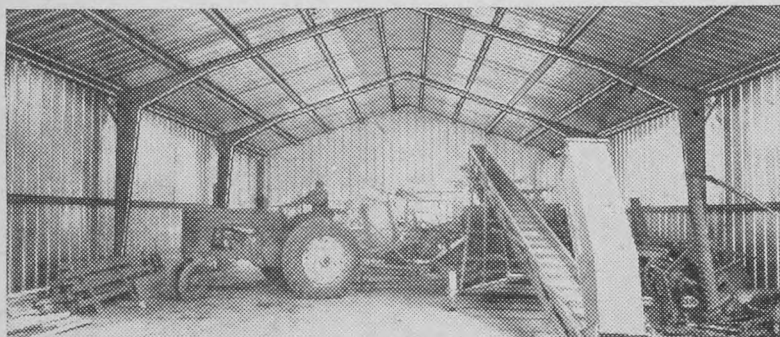
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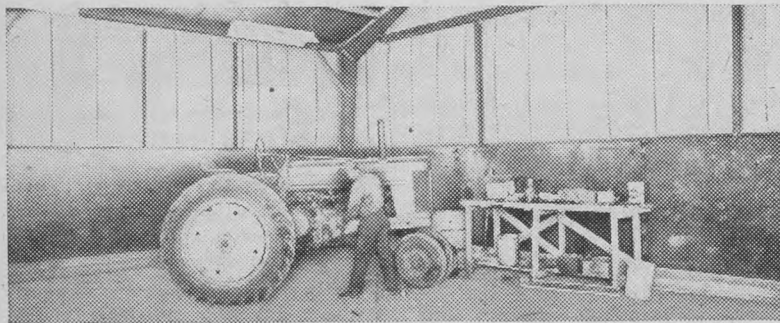
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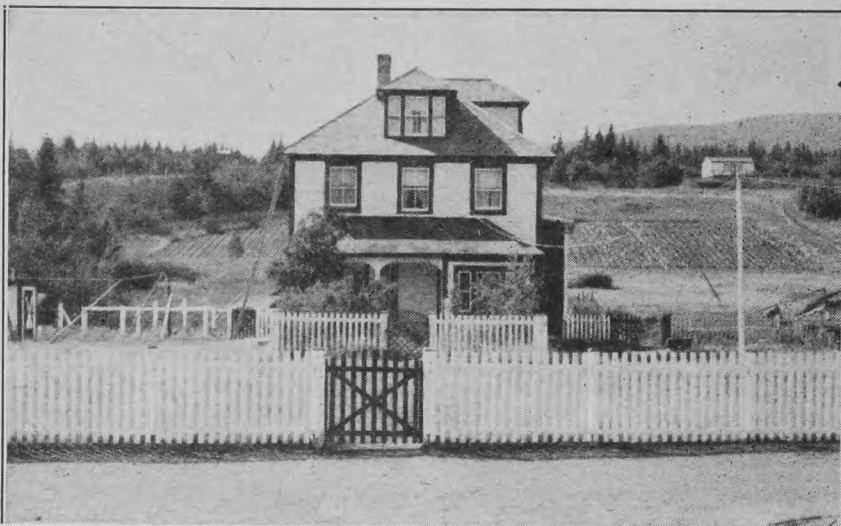
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## Newfoundland Row-Crop Specialist

*This 40-acre farm grows potatoes and vegetable crops for logging camps and villages*

by D. W. S. RYAN



*This is the Yates home, showing part of the farm in the background. The farmhouse is part of the village of King's Point and faces Green Bay.*

**W**. E. YATES of King's Point, Green Bay, northern Newfoundland, is a full-time commercial farmer who raises his crops partly the organic way, using natural fertilizers, stable manure and marine fish.

Mr. Yates specializes in root-crop growing. He has a 40-acre farm that has soil, which, according to expert analysis, is rated equal to any found on the Canadian mainland.

His farm is on a gentle slope of terrace land, running up from the sea at the bottom of a long wedge-shaped bay. Four terraces in all make up his farmstead.

Of the 40 acres which he has fenced in, more than one-third are under cultivation. Potatoes, cabbage, beets, carrots, parsnips, and turnips are the vegetables that he raises. Potatoes are his biggest crop and last year he harvested about 800 barrels. They were mostly Aaron Victory, a blight-resistant, cankerproof potato.

He raises his vegetables other than potatoes by using mostly natural fertilizer. This is chiefly caplin, a small oceanic fish not much bigger than a giant pea pod. These fish sometimes come to shore within a few yards of his farm.

They strike in on the beaches during the latter part of June, at the time when the plants are leafing through

the ground and are sturdy enough to endure this organic treatment. The fish are caught in hand nets, usually thrown from the shore.

Not having time to catch these fertilizer-fish himself, Mr. Yates purchases his supply from fishermen down the bay. He spreads the fish on the soil between the rows of plants, and lets them lie to decompose, without covering them with earth. His crops, however, soon develop a rich, green growth.

Mr. Yates also finds that his crops stay green longer than if they were treated solely with commercial fertilizer. This is a decided advantage for late harvesting. Besides, the crops also retain their natural flavor, treated in this way.

Crop growth is much more rapid with commercial fertilizer treatment. All his potatoes he treats that way. His carrots get stable manure only. His other vegetables get varying quantities of natural and commercial fertilizers.

**C**HIEF market for his crop is a pulp-wood logging center down the coast. He also sells a lot to villagers along the coast in northern Notre Dame Bay.

In partnership with him is his son, Calvin, who operates the farm machinery. Calvin, besides having first-hand practical experience from his father, has a theoretical knowledge of agriculture. He has helped his father clear much of the land he now uses.

Land clearing without the use of heavy equipment was a hard and back-breaking task. When Mr. Yates started clearing he had no such equipment. Every stump was pulled out by the muscular strength of his horse, coupled with his own.

Once the stumps were removed, plowing presented very little difficulty, as the soil is practically boulder free. It is reddish and has a fine texture, but it bakes in hot weather.

The crops that grow in it are a delight to see, the cabbage especially. On the Yates farm there are three varieties—Golden Acre, an early cabbage, Danish Baldhead and Pennstate Baldhead, late varieties.

From his early crop he gets a second growth. By leaving the stalks



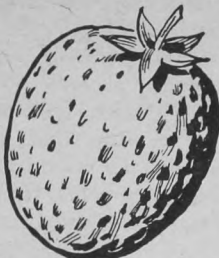
*W. E. Yates is one of few full-time farmers in northern Newfoundland.*



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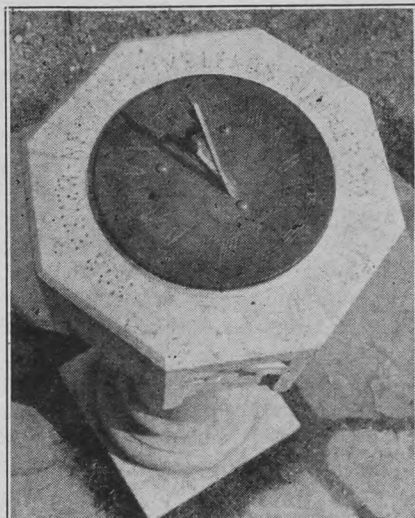
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in the ground he harvests two and  
three-pound heads in November. Each  
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especially King's Point. Here he has  
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shadow cast by the pointer.*

## B.C. Dairy Cows Work Hard

by P. W. LUCE

**D**AIRYMEN of the Fraser Valley,  
and other parts of British Columbia,  
have reason to be proud of the production  
records recently made by their cows. On tests  
made under the supervision of the Dairy  
Herd Improvement Association the average  
annual production of the British Columbia  
cows was 9,382 pounds of milk. The average  
production of all milch cows in Canada has  
been estimated at 5,655 pounds.

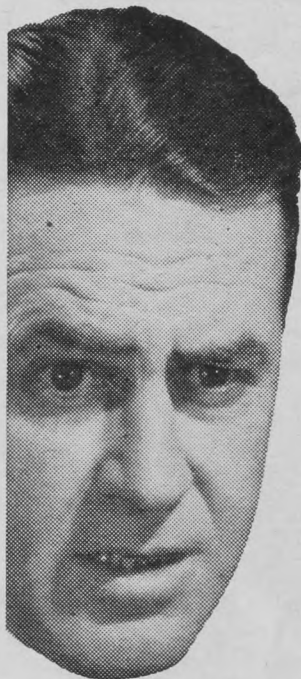
Average butterfat content among  
D.H.I.A. cows in B.C. was 4.26 per cent.  
More than 8,000 lactation periods were  
involved in the compilation of the records.

An analysis shows that Holsteins  
predominate among the dairy cattle in the  
coast province. Ayrshires are away down  
at the bottom of the list. The figures are:  
Holsteins, 37.8 per cent; Jerseys, 25.6 per  
cent; Guernseys, 22.5 per cent; Ayrshires, 3.2  
per cent; unclassified, 10.9 per cent.

Latest figures show that 11,500 dairy  
cows are on regular test. This is more than  
25 times the number on test only five years  
ago. In the Fraser Valley the farmers figure  
that 11 average cows will produce a ton of  
milk a week, and the ambition of the dairy-  
men is to sell as much fluid milk as possible.

Unfortunately, the fluid milk market is  
limited, and a great deal of the 3.5 butterfat  
milk can't be sold at

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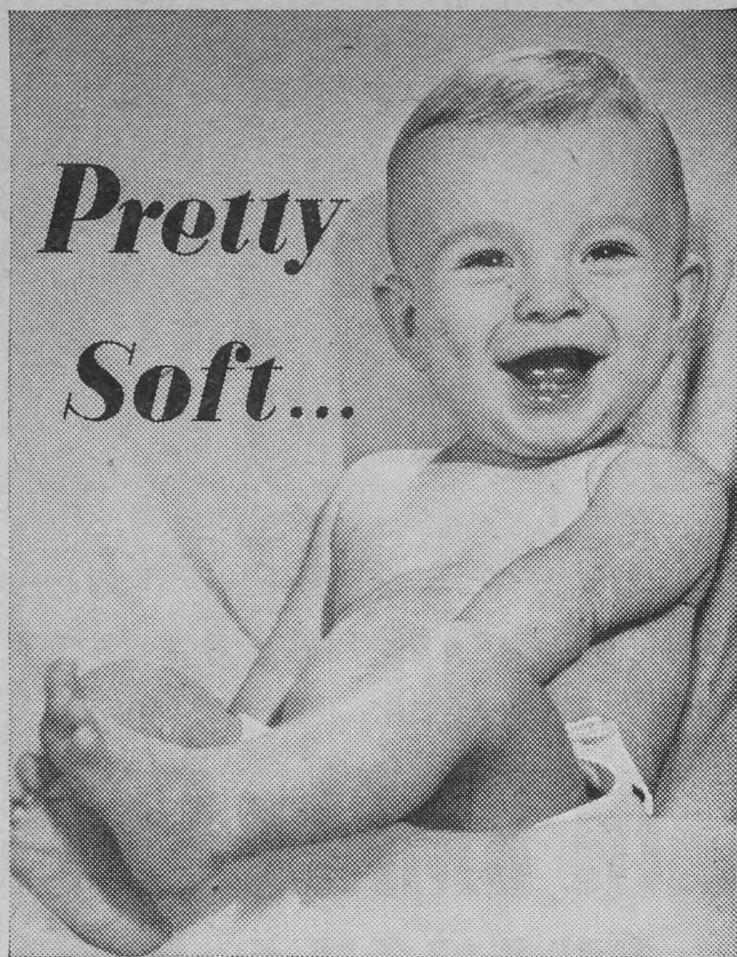
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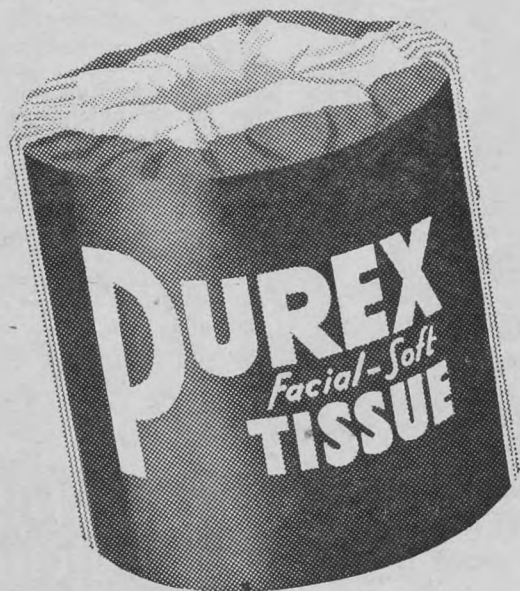
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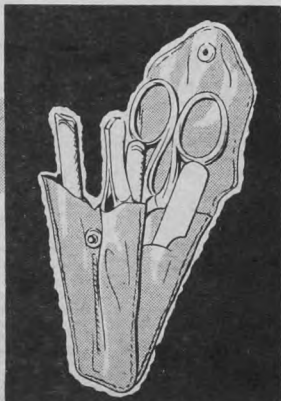


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the tempting price of \$5.03 a hundred pounds. Some has to be turned into cheese, and too much has to go into powdered milk. Both markets have gone into the doldrums of late.

The butterfat piling up as surplus is said to be roughly equal to the quantity of vegetable fats imported into Canada for the manufacture of margarine and for other uses. The cheese factories of eastern Canada are making a determined effort to capture more of the British Columbia market, and two cheese factories in North Okan-

agan are facing stiffer competition.

Alex Mercer, former president, British Columbia Federation of Agriculture foresees an increase in the surplus of milk powder, as a result of the new United States quotas, which decrease Canadian exports. Many housewives have not yet been educated to the advantages of milk powder, but something drastic will have to be done soon. A little while ago the price was 17 cents per pound, and has now dropped to ten cents. It may go lower, but it can't possibly go much lower. V

## Soviet Grain Program

*Plans are under way for vast acreage increases based on semi-forced labor*

A NEW Soviet grain program, which calls for a huge increase in acreage within the next two years, might make that country a strong competitor in the world wheat market. There is no certainty, however, that the new plans will be any more successful than those of the past. Although some years have seen Russia as a big exporter of small grains, her performance in this field has been spotty. In spite of a series of grain drives over the past 20 years, the present Soviet problem is still one of inadequate production. A marked contrast to North American heavy grain surpluses.

The method chosen by the Russians to increase their output is interesting, because it means a return to an old policy, abandoned for lack of success. In the early 1930's, emphasis was placed on increased grain acreage, but the stress was laid later, on increasing per-acre yields. The fact that the Soviet leaders have gone back to the increased acreage format would indicate that neither their programs, nor the false science of the early postwar years were bringing the desired result.

One of the causes of failure to reach these set goals was the method used to compute production figures. These were based on pre-harvest yields, which neglected to allow for the heavy losses incurred during harvesting. The result was that the programs advanced in a highly successful manner on paper, but did not materialize at the government granaries. Lulled into a sense of well-being by reports which listed yields they "expected" to get, officials failed to learn the true state of affairs until it was too late to salvage the program.

Another reason for the poor showing made by Russian grain plans to date is the failure of the collective farm. The reason for this is simple and basic. Russian farmers are unwilling to work on collective fields, because the returns they receive are too small to make their efforts worthwhile. In 1953, the actual money received per collective farm family was less than \$500 at official exchange rates. As far as purchasing power is concerned, this would mean even less on this continent, because Soviet prices are much higher. The discontent of the worker was reflected in lower grain yields.

This condition has led to another change of policy. Although the brunt of this year's grain target will still fall

on the collective farms (kolkhozy), the 1956 goal will see the large state farms (sovkhozy) emerge as the main implement of production. In eastern Soviet regions, huge new farms are being opened up on virgin land, or land long uncultivated. More than 150,000 workers and technicians, most of them young people, have been sent to these areas. The mechanical equipment sent with them included the equivalent of 50,000 tractors of 15 h.p., 6,300 trucks, and a huge stock of other implements and materials.

Last spring nine million acres were sown under the new program, and the target for this year set at 37 million acres. This was ordered doubled for 1956 to about 70 million acres—equal to more than one-quarter of the total Russian grain area in 1953. Considering that at its highest point in history (1949) the United States wheat area was only 76 million acres, the Russian effort looms as a gigantic undertaking. Whether they achieve the desired production, or maintain it once achieved, is another question. If past production records are any indication, they will not. V

## The Visitors In Our Cellar

by JEAN JAMES

YOU'VE heard of people having bats in the belfry, but our problem was much more noisome: we had skunks in our cellar. Imagine being rudely awakened in the wee small hours to the fact that the stray cat you knew was under the house, had made the acquaintance of his striped cousins that you didn't know were there; and that the dislike was mutual. The squalling woke us, and the odor drove us out.

We discarded all the tainted edibles, hung our clothing and bedding on the line to air, and took refuge with sympathetic, but rather amused relatives. The immediate problem was to get rid of our unwelcome guests. A sharp-shooting relative offered to show his skill with a .22; but we felt that if we annoyed the skunks any more the house would never again be tenable. At last a friend gave us an idea.

He had heard that it was possible to lead a skunk a mile where you couldn't drive him an inch. In other words, all we had to do was to get a rope on the beast and lead him to a safe distance where he could be destroyed.



After a week of scrubbing and airing, the house was once again ready for occupancy, and we returned home to try out our new skunk-catching method. We attached a long rope to a gopher trap which we set at the opening to the space under the house. Next morning, sure enough, there was a skunk with one front foot in the trap. Rather gingerly my husband took the end of the rope (which had been anchored a safe distance away) and started to walk away; and to our amazement the skunk followed, perfectly docile.

We followed this routine for several days, till finally we must have captured all the male members of the colony; for one morning there was a mother skunk in the trap, complete with family.

"I don't know how we're going to manage this," my husband said. "How would it be if I drag her along like the others and you see if you can make the little ones follow her?"

I wasn't at all sure how it would be, but as a good wife should, I obeyed my lord and master; and with fear and trembling tried to shoo the little ones along. They followed willingly enough, and I take no credit for that, for I stayed so far back I don't think they even knew I was there. We must have made a strange procession . . . my husband, a long rope, mother skunk and her babies in single file, and me, a very timid rear guard.

That was the last of our striped callers; but for a long time afterward, in damp weather, or when the house had been closed up for a time, we had unmistakable evidence that we had not always been the sole occupants. ✓

## The Fire Demon Repulsed

by VIOLA PHILLIPS

THERE was a brisk wind blowing across the open prairies and it was both hot and dry the day we were confronted with the dread wild demon of the prairies.

We became aware of it when the dark billows of heavy grey smoke from the southern hills spiralled high into the deep blueness of the afternoon sky. The sun gradually disappeared behind the dense smudge, as the cloud grew thicker and darker by the minute. To the farm folk the smoke spelled disaster in capital let-

ters. Help was urgently needed, and as quickly as possible.

Men and women gathered up sacks and rags and filled containers with water, and without the slightest hesitation jumped into the first vehicle available and drove toward the fire.

Dozens of neighbors were already hard at work with tractors and wet rags when we arrived at the scene. Despite their labor to keep the outer sparks under control, new flames leaped everlastingly forth, licking at the tinder-dry grass.

But there was no giving up; there could be no turning back; this job had to be done. Already the fire threatened the Morgan buildings, and had encircled a slough of hay stacks beyond saving.

A backfire was started at the outer edge of the buildings—the one last hope of turning aside the burning inferno, from the Morgan home.

HOURS later, women of the neighborhood arrived with coffee and sandwiches, which were gratefully accepted. The refreshments were hurriedly gulped down, for there was little time to rest.

The lead of the fire drove onward with the strengthening wind, and finally edged the railway tracks. The country folk quietly whispered a prayer for help, that the fire would not jump over the tracks, and that it would be made to run along the edge of the gravelled bank and perhaps slowly diminish.

A freight train loomed out of the fog-like smoke, and slowly dragged to a stop. It waited for several minutes then, finding the track still safe enough to cross, it chugged ahead, and away.

Suddenly we realized that the wind had shifted. The wicked flames were turned to claw their long, red tentacles back over the already blackened ruins of the prairie ground. Our hopes held until the very last spark was diminished, and not until then did we heave that final sigh of relief. The Lord had answered our prayers; our homes had been saved.

White teeth flashed and laughing eyes sparkled in blackened grimy faces that held a trace of fatigue from the worry and strain of the past hours. What did fatigue matter in comparison with the battle we had won: the job, we had considered, with God's help, as being exceedingly well done? ✓



Directors and executive members of the Canadian sheep breeders for 1955. Reading from left to right—front row: J. Telfer, secretary; P. J. Rock, Drumheller, Alta.; Ephraim Snell, past president; J. E. Nixon, president, Wauchope, Sask.; R. J. Strachan, Carman, Man.; J. I. Black, Fergus, Ont. Back row: A. E. Stewart, Abbotsford, B.C.; E. A. Faulkner, Pictou, N.S.; X. N. Rodrigue, Quebec, P.Q.; R. C. Golightly, Streamstown, Alta.; J. H. Wilmot, Milton, Ont.; Lloyd Ayre, Bowmanville, Ont.; Wilson Douglas, Caledonia, Ont.

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## The Crystal Pool

Continued from page 12

though Harl Stor had been around as always and had asked her first. But with Vincent you floated in the air and you could scarce find answers to all his questions and the other crazy things he said.

She hurried along the narrow woods trail, climbing in one place among beeches and vine-maples to a point 50 feet above the river. Always she paused here to look down at the water, sympathizing with the river in its rebel rush down-country. From

here it fretted over black and white rocks between two walls of the forest, the water, clear bottle-green in places, laced with lather and snarling against the narrow banks that tried in vain to quell it.

Abruptly, as Karen neared the town's edge, she was no longer alone. Someone had emerged from the thickets soundlessly, and Vincent Boody was beside her. He always appeared like that. He was beside and above her all in an instant; his keen, sharp face hovering over her like a hawk's. Already he had an arm around her waist, not waiting a by-your-leave like Harl or the others, his

swift smile burning her. It was more than other smiles, the eyes and the carved mouth telling such other tales. Granny didn't like Vincent's smile either. She said it was just something that came over a face not cut out for smiling.

"Where you heading for, chicka-biddy?" Vince asked, squeezing her. "Just to town."

"I'm coming after you tonight," he said boldly. "You be ready early!"

No asking or working up to anything with Vincent. Karen hid her thrill behind a guise of indecision: "Remember, Harl asked me first."

"That's just too bad," he said.

"What you going to do in town?"

She wouldn't tell him that only now at this eleventh hour she was calling for her formal, the first she had ever owned. His smile was like a soft cloud pressing in on her. He was still at the hugging supposed to be reserved for the dance, and all at once he bent and planted a burning kiss on her mouth and another on her neck. She had to shove him away. Her breath came sharp and fast, and now something she hadn't known existed in her hated him suddenly. It hated herself, too, because she wanted to go limp in his arms and stay there.

She kept moving townward, but could scarcely make progress with him hanging on and talking, and trying to detain her in all the shadowy places. In spite of everything, she liked the uncertainty and the stir of danger she felt in the air. He would leave her in town, she knew; he was on his way to work at Carlson's Feed and Fuel.

JUST as they turned into Main Street, Karen saw Harl going into the Outlet Store. He came to a stop and stood looking at them and Karen waved gaily and defiantly. It served him right, even if he was tall and good looking, she thought, a man who could sit and talk as much to Granny Haight as he did to her of an evening.

A few minutes after Karen had left the trout pool a black-and-tawny head and two ochre-green eyes took shape in the thicket. It was the old tom cougar the girl had often glimpsed, and he had been close by all the time



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"After sitting on the tractor all day, standing for a while should be a pleasant change!"

as she had vaguely sensed. It was not the first time he had shadowed the girl and watched her from a near-by covert and followed her, all unknown. A grown man filled his savage heart with fear, but a child or a woman always fascinated him, for in each he sensed a possible prey. There was nothing in the air, in the forest, or in the stream thereof that his pale gooseberry eyes did not take note of.

The big cat was well past his prime. Moreover, he was lame in one hind leg from an old encounter with a trap. This and the stiffness of years had spoiled his timing so that only at long intervals was he able to make a deer kill. He had come to haunt the woodland streams for possible fish and to follow strayed cattle, dogs, children, even Karen. Of late he had taken to watching and coveting the big rainbow in the crystal-clear pool. The pool was too deep for the cougar's catch-as-catch-can fishing, but the day might come when the trout came to bask unwarily near the surface. Today he waited a while—too hungry for



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genuine patience and irritated as well by the propinquity of the big brown bear noisily fishing in the center of the stream. These two knew each other too well. For a year a bitter rivalry had existed between them. The bear, like many of his kind in late prime, had turned almost wholly carnivorous and thus encroached directly upon the hunting prerogatives of the cougar. At every evidence either found of the other's kills, the hatred between them grew, but when by chance their trails crossed, as now, they turned aside with a mutual and wholesome respect for one another's prowess.

Just as he was about to take himself off today a chance finally did present itself. The rainbow rose lazily to inspect a moth that had blundered into the pool, and the cougar tensed and struck with a swift scoop of a paw into the water he loathed. His claws came close—maddeningly close—but the wary trout shot bobbin-like to safety, and the result only doused the cougar clear to the shoulders



in the icy stream. Hissing and swearing, he went bounding away into the woods as if fearful lest some watching eye had witnessed his discomfiture.

Watching eyes had. The brown bear saw far more than anyone thought he did. He saw, moreover, that there must be something special in that particular rock-bound pool. He started toward it, unhurried as always.

WHEN Karen reached home, Granny Haight agreed that the new dress was perfect. The day was perfect, and the evening was going to be too, she thought. Then Granny got it out of her that she had met Vincent Boody on the trail and there were more warnings. Karen closed her eyes and ears to it all.

At mid-afternoon she started down to the deep pool to see if her rainbow was still safe. She circled round by the high cliff trail again, humming and holding her dress out to the live wind. A scudding cloud shadowed the sun for a minute or two, and the raging stream below looked suddenly cruel and menacing like the dark, towering rocks that bound it. It was cold in the shadows and the muffled stillness that lay under the stream's thunder clamped down upon her very thoughts.

Karen began to hurry and presently found herself glancing round as if to surprise someone or something watching her. Abruptly her heart gave a violent surge, for framed in a tangle of vine-maple she had seen a gaunt, malign head and eyes that fixed her with cruel intensity. It was gone almost before she was certain of it, and that filled her with a deeper dread. She began to run then, and flight wrought real terror. It was as if the face of the forest that had always smiled upon her until now had suddenly darkened with menace.

A hundred yards farther and a glance flung behind her showed the long tawny body of the cougar gliding serpentwise after her through the thickets. Karen ran faster, hoping to outdistance the animal, though at the same time instinct told her that it was the worst thing she could do. Fascinated like all cats by the ancient game of chasing a fleeing quarry, the cougar was coming on, covering the ground in long, undulating bounds. In two days and nights he had made no kill and his hunger had reached a point where it would not be stilled. But the natural indirection of his kind and the leas of his deep-laid cowardice delayed the issue.

Karen dared not leave the river trail where she was fleetest. Home was cut off by dense thickets, the underwood where the cougar was in his element. She ran on with all the strength that was in her toward the bend in the stream and the familiar pool, as if it were a shelter.

NOT long after his narrow escape from the cougar's paw the big rainbow in the deep pool was beset by another enemy, more to be feared than cat or man. The big brown bear fishing in midstream had lumbered in to see what had interested the cat and the sight of the great trout in his sheltered pool had driven all other ideas from his head. In his slow, systematic way he laid siege to the master of the pool from the river side. The big trout rushed streamward to escape, but there was the bear's bulk completely blocking the pool's outlet. He darted back to his protecting rock.

Knowing his advantage the brown fisherman hunkered down and began craftily sieving the pool with deep, swift scoops of his cestus-like forepaw. The trout darted here and there in desperation while the water of the crystal pool grew roiled and yellow and the rocky lips of its outer edge broke down under the giant's weight. Soon the trout became invisible in the murk of mud and silt and for a time this was to his advantage, though



"I've been thinking dear, how do you think that lilac would look over here?"

never before had been up against so persistent an attack. Warned by the swishing of water and the crunching of the great feet on the gravelly bottom, he continued to elude the swipes, but after a time the advantage of the murk was actually with the besieger, who worked through wile and instinct to probe every cranny of the pool, and to keep on probing without surcease.

Immeasurable time passed. At last all was quiet below, the fisherman seemed to have departed, but when the silt gradually settled, it showed the furry giant still hunkered there and resting. The golden eye of the



## APPLE CRISP PUDDING

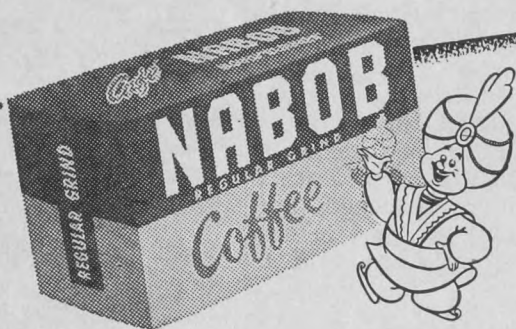
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- 1½ cups hot water
- 16 Paulin's Peerless Cream Sodas (unsalted)
- ¾ cup of brown sugar
- ¾ cup of butter
- pinch of salt

Peel and slice apples into a saucepan, add water and cook until tender; then turn into a buttered pudding dish. Roll Soda Crackers into fine crumbs, place in mixing bowl, add sugar, butter and salt and blend thoroughly together. Sprinkle mixture over the apples and bake in a hot oven 400 degrees F. for 25 minutes. Serve warm with cream.

**Paulin's**  
Manufacturers  
of biscuits  
and confections  
for more than  
75 years.



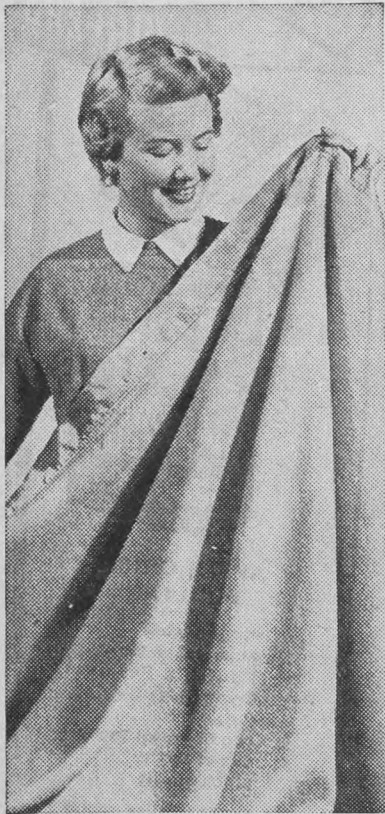
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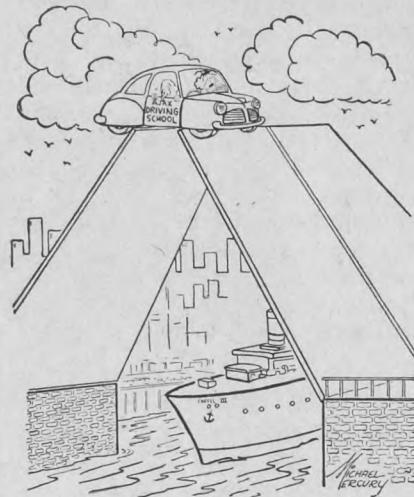
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trout and the brown shifty one of the bear met through the first clearing water and the end was written there. When the onslaught resumed it was quieter and far more deadly, with a studied craft behind each move. The bear took pains not to roil the water again. It was a game of patience at which he was master. At last a lucky stroke of curved claws hooked the gleaming body and the rainbow shot upward and shoreward in a shining arc, to land flapping among the ferns.

Casually the bear moved to the bank and lumbered out. Twice he



"I suppose this means I've failed again!"

swiped at the slithering prize and missed. His jaws were slaving for the luscious meal he had won, but in the very act of crunching the rainbow's spine there came an interruption.

Dress torn and with her breath coming in sobbing gasps, Karen came rushing down the trail. Almost she collided with the bear, but dodged aside with a whimpering cry. It seemed to her that all the beasts of the forest were converging upon her. The bear held his ground except that he reared upward with a warning growl and Karen sped desperately along the downstream path. A moment later, instead of being struck down as she ran, there arose from behind her the terrifying sounds of lethal battle that stopped her flight.

ONLY a few rods behind her the cougar had been stretched out in a sort of flowing crawl. His pursuit by now had covered nearly a quarter of a mile, a trying distance for one of his fidgety, short-winded race. Minute by minute his blood-lust had been mounting while his high-tension nervous system was literally snapping with savage anticipation. Coming suddenly upon the bear uprisen as if to attack the girl, he took it for a brazen attempt to rob him of his rightful prey. In the dull, slow brain of the bear both girl and cougar were trying to rob him of his hard-caught fish, which he had just killed by flattening it with a full-armed blow. Both beasts were surcharged with rage and hate, the cougar quite demented. His screaming charge broke the final inhibition of their long-held truce.

The cougar gained an advantage at the outset by a spring which landed him on the neck and shoulders of the foe—nearly 200 pounds of ripping, roweling death. His tactics were swift and terrible during the first few moments. He must kill quickly for the great back of the brown fisherman was no likely place for the laying on of claws. He did his best in the first

minute to tear his rival to ribbons and rip open his jugular.

Staggering under the killer's weight, the bear flung himself craftily on his back and gave a wrestler's roll. When the pair righted themselves again it was the bear who had the desired hold—a deadly grip of forearms round the cougar's body. Locked now jowl to throat, each with an almost fatal hold, the battle raced with time for denouement. The cougar wrought the reddest havoc, but by degrees his very ribs began to crack under growing pressure of that lethal hug. From then on he fought only to escape, his tactics minus all reason, while the bear battled on with a deadly calculation in every move, never loosening his wrestler's hold.

Back in the thickets Karen stood transfixed by the very miracle of the thing: the two beasts that had menaced her, suddenly at each other's throats in deadly conflict. She saw the ruin of her crystal pool and the muddy silt of midstream swirling through it and her great trout lying dead beneath the feet of the fighters. It was like a part of herself that lay there, the shattered pool like the end of dreams. For the first time she saw death and utter savagery over the face of her forest world, the lust and rapacity that underlay all life. Always it had been there just beneath the surface, but she had not known till now. Now she could never trust anything completely again. Only by a far-flung chance had she herself missed destruction.

Death, she saw, was ending the battle by the pool. The cougar's writhing body suddenly weakened and collapsed. Karen turned and fled once more along the homeward trail. She ran just as hard as if they were still after her all along the way. She was almost home when at the bend of the trail she ran head-down into a pair of arms that caught and held her with a gentle firmness that made her clutch back and burrow for dear life. It was Harl. It had to be Harl, she realized, at that moment at that particular spot on the trail.

When her heart had stilled and he had released her, they moved on quietly together toward home, still without a word or a single question. This, too, was so wonderful, and only Harl would be capable of that. For what must he think? How must she look with dress torn and her face and arms streaked and scratched, and panting for breath? Some time she would tell him all, and even laugh about it, but not now—she was too tired, and too untellably glad.



"They'll feel better after you wear them awhile."



# The Countrywoman

## Proof

If radio's slim fingers  
Can pluck a melody  
From the night, and toss it over  
A continent or sea;  
If the petalled white notes  
Of a violin  
Are blown across a mountain  
Or a city's din;  
If songs like crimson roses  
Are culled from the thin blue air,  
Why should mortals wonder  
If God hears prayer?

—ETHEL ROMIG FULLER.



## What is Charm?

Charm is the measure of attraction's power  
To chain the fleeting fancy of an hour,  
And rival all the spell of beauty's dower.

A subtle grace of heart and mind that flows  
With tactful sympathy; the sweetest rose,  
If not the fairest, that the garden knows.

A quick responsiveness in word and deed,  
A dignity and stateliness at need,  
The will to follow or the art to lead.

She to whom this most gracious gift is known  
Has life's great potent factor for her own,  
And rules alike the cottage and the throne.

—LOUISA CARROLL THOMAS.

The above little poem was one of 69 written in answer to the question: *What is Charm?*, raised by a man who thought that a written competition on this subject would afford a novel and amusing form of literary entertainment for guests in a summer camp at a seaside resort in Rhode Island, in 1899. The entries received were later published in a booklet. This poem was awarded first place. We used it before, and recalled it when recently a woman executive, speaking to a club audience, claimed that women in business, concentrating on efficiency, were too often lacking in charm.



**S**ENSATIONAL news often crowds in on our newspapers, spills out from the radio broadcasts, overshadowing items which tell of encouraging efforts, fine spirit and good results. We miss these little bits and pieces frequently, partly because they are tucked away in odd corners, and not given striking headings. During the past month several such encouraging items of news appeared.

The relief agency "CARE," through one of its directors in New York, announced that it is halting its shipments of packages of relief items to eight European countries: Britain, France, Belgium, Austria, Norway, The Netherlands, Luxemburg and West Germany—with the exception of Berlin.

The reason given for halting the service was: because these countries, now, are able to stand on their own feet. "CARE" was started after the second

## Bits and pieces stressing the positive side and the healthy growth in Canada of interest in drama

by AMY J. ROE

world war, and handled orders from Americans wishing to send relief packages overseas. The curtailment of shipments of such packages to Europe will enable the agency to increase aid to the peoples of Asia and Latin America, where the need for relief is much greater.

**L**AST month, the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews celebrated in Toronto its eighth annual Brotherhood Week, marked by special activities to call attention to its existence and purposes. The Brotherhood movement is gaining strength all across Canada, and new chapters are being formed in many centers.

The purpose set forth in a pamphlet is: "To give people an opportunity to rededicate themselves as individuals to the basic ideals of respect for people and human rights, which are essential to our way of life;

"To dramatize the practical things which people can do to promote an understanding and realization of these ideals;

"To enlist the support of a larger number of people in the year-round activities to build brotherhood."

The Board of Control includes two Roman Catholics, two Protestants and a Jewish mayor. Many organizations lend the services of their leaders, men ranking high in industry, commerce and public affairs. They speak to service clubs, schools, parent-teacher groups, churches and many other gatherings; join in welfare fund drives and in every possible way work toward the breaking down of prejudice barriers in the community.

**F**ROM three women's organizations have come announcements of scholarship funds to train people in special fields of work:

Elizabeth Fry Society, Toronto branch, have established an Agnes MacPhail Memorial Fund, which will award a scholarship for post-graduate study in penal matters, to be undertaken at the University of Toronto. The Elizabeth Fry Society has been operating in England for over 100 years, with the purpose of assisting in the rehabilitation of girls and women prisoners. The subject of prison reform was a matter which Agnes MacPhail, particularly during the latter years of her life, took greatly to heart. She was the inspiring force behind the movement to form the Toronto branch in 1953—others existing at: Vancouver, Kingston, Ottawa, Kelowna, Nanaimo and Kamloops.

Una MacLean of Calgary has been awarded the United Nations fellowship, awarded for the first time by the Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. This \$500 award was set up last August at the national convention and is open to any member of the B. and P. Club or an affiliate. Miss MacLean will attend sessions of the Status of Women and the Human Rights Commission at UN headquarters in New York.

The need for trained social workers in western Canada has been recognized by Quota Clubs in the three prairie provinces. This year a scholarship fund has been opened and will be available to any woman student from Saskatchewan, proceeding to graduate studies in the field of welfare services, in an accredited university or college in Canada. Students whose academic standing is satisfactory may make application. The award of \$250 will be announced at the end of June, 1955.

## CBC and Drama

**T**HOUGH March winds blow and we still may have snow, we are not now isolated from others of our kind. Thanks to the magic of radio, we may have daily news, information, opinion on timely questions or listen in on discussion sessions of various forums, at the twirl of a dial.

We may choose to our liking from a wide variety of forms of entertainment: the spoken word, religious services, music and drama. These facts are brought home to us anew by a summary glance at the CBC's report of broadcasting activities for the year 1953-54. This shows: 52 per cent of its network time devoted to music and 48 per cent to the spoken word.

It is particularly gratifying to note the service to schools: 55,000 copies of *Young Canada Listens*, the manual accompanying school broadcasts, were distributed. In English-speaking Canada, some 60 per cent or 15,000 schools heard the school broadcasts. These have been of a high order of quality and so recognized at home and abroad. During the year, Canada exchanged school broadcast scripts, recorded sound effects and transcribed programs with: Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and, for the first time, Pakistan. CBC won a first in an international award for a school broadcast *Discoveries in Words*.

Stated in hours, the portion devoted to the spoken word and drama—well over 2,000 hours in each case—is impressive. During the year covered by the report, there were 306 drama broadcasts, 92 per cent were written or adapted by Canadian writers and 89 per cent were original plays.

The aim of CBC in the prairie region in 1955 is to continue and develop programs of established and proven merit, while including in its broad policy adequate room for fresh ideas and experimentation. Drama and music festivals in a province do much in developing and bringing to recognition young people with special talent and ability. Programs originating from a point in the prairie region afford these young people a wider audience on the national network.

The benefits from competitions in drama festivals extend far beyond those who take part in the plays produced. Members of the audiences gain in knowledge with the actors from the criticisms given by competent adjudicators. Thus we have a growing body of people who know more and more about what to expect in a good play and how to judge good acting and voice production. The regular CBC feature *Critically Speaking*, heard on Sunday afternoons, contributes further in this direction. We are enabled to balance our own judgment of the merit of a movie, play or book against that of an experienced commentator.

This is the month when the "big top" is unwrapped and put into place over the Stratford Shakespearean Theatre at Stratford, Ontario. Cutters and needleworkers are already at work on costumes for the plays to be produced at Stratford's third festival season which will run from June 27 to August 27, 1955. The plays selected are: *Julius Caesar*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Oedipus Rex*. Saskatchewan's Frances Hyland, of London theatre fame, will play the part of Portia in *The Merchant of Venice*, and Lorne Green, of CBC renown, will be cast in the role of Brutus in *Julius Caesar*.

Last year, during the nine-week festival, over 125,000 people viewed the plays at Stratford's tent-top theatre during the 68 performances. This year there will be an accompanying musical festival at Stratford, and a school of the theatre offering a concentrated technical course, including a professional voice teacher, for those who wish to make the theatre their vocation. Thus Stratford Shakespearean Festival, in three short years, has become a mecca for actors and Canadian play lovers.





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Dominion Inlaid Linoleum is furnishing easy-to-clean flooring in kitchens—playrooms, halls and bathrooms, too—all across Canada. And it's also bringing a subtle new type of loveliness into the living, dining and bedrooms of the modern Canadian home.

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Get illustrated, idea-ful booklets on linoleum, the *trend* flooring, by writing: Dominion Oilcloth & Linoleum Co. Ltd., Home Planning Dept., 2200 St. Catherine St. E., Montreal.

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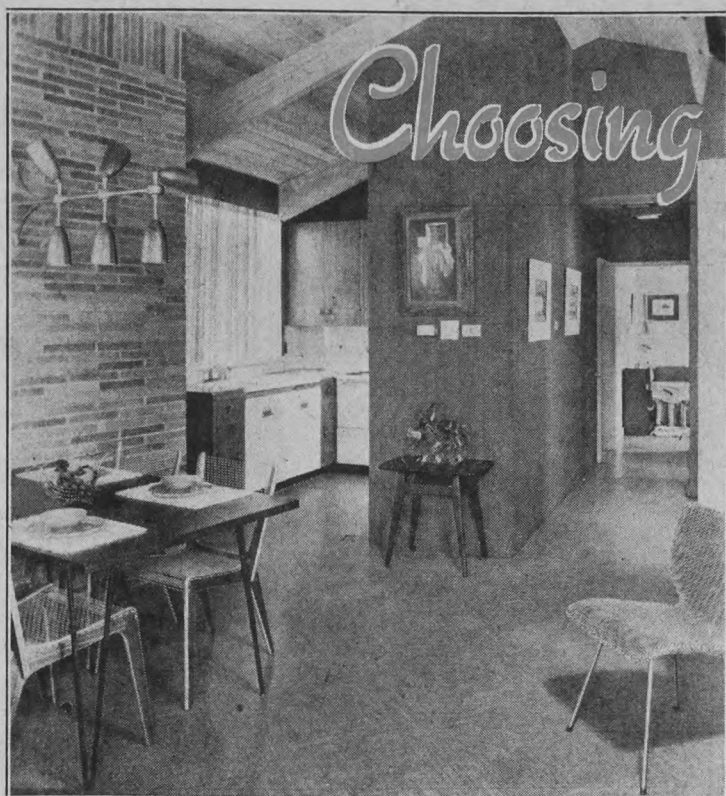
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# Choosing a Floor Covering

*A wide range of choice in linoleum and floor tiles offered the homemaker—suited in color, design, service and comfort to any particular room of her house*

by LILLIAN VIGRASS



*Unity and space are achieved in kitchen, hall and dining area by the use of matching linoleum tile.*

**T**ODAY much thought is put into the planning and decorating of a house. Color, texture and design are important. Practical, appropriate, easily maintained wall and floor finishes, draperies and furnishings are sought by the homemaker. The lines and size of furniture and accessories in relation to the room are carefully considered.

The floor in any decorative scheme is one of the larger single areas where color can be used. It sets the color scheme of the room or accents a color already used. It determines mood and atmosphere by the use of feminine pastel tones or more definite masculine colors, makes a room modern and gay with bright, cheerful hues or gives a restful effect with large areas of subdued tone.

The design of a floor covering can tie together adjoining rooms, giving them a look of unity. It can separate a room into definite sections or it can attract attention to a special area by concentration of pattern there. The restrained use of stripes or diagonals and the proper placing of bright color can add to the length or width of the room.

There are other considerations besides color and effect that must be taken into account in the choice of a floor covering. Where tracking is a problem, choice of a design that helps hide unsightly footprints is of distinct advantage. For a room where traffic is heavy, a durable covering is essential. Indenting by heavy furniture and appliances is more evident on some floorings than others, and resilience and lack of noise are considerations for the room where much walking or standing takes place.

**C**OST will be an influencing factor in every case, as will the length of time the covering is expected to last. Of utmost importance is the type of subfloor over which the covering will be installed.

The use of a room, the amount of traffic, likelihood of spills, the frequency of cleaning and appearance are factors that affect your choice. Washable floors are usually necessary in a hall, kitchen, bathroom and dining area. They may be the wisest choice

too for living room and bedrooms, sewing room and den.

When you go to buy a floor covering you are confronted with such a variety of makes and types that to avoid confusion one should be aware of the qualities of each, the cost and the recommended cleaning methods. The homemaker should inform herself of what is available, its advantages and limitations.

**L**INOLEUM is the oldest composition flooring. It was produced in 1860 by Frederick Walton from, basically, a mixture of cork and linseed oil. Cork tile, the next type made, was processed from cork. It was manufactured in blocks about half an inch thick and proved so durable that office buildings in which it was installed 35 to 40 years ago are using it still.

Rubber, in sheet and tile form, was later offered for use as a floor covering. In the early 1930's asphalt tile was introduced. It was used primarily over concrete runways and warehouse floors where it helped to overcome dust and noise and made a softer, quieter floor on which to walk.

Vinyl tile, the newest composition flooring, was developed about 20 years ago. Since that time extensive research by many manufacturers has produced the many types available today.



Linoleum has long been the favorite among the practical floor coverings. It offers the widest range of choice in color. Patterns vary from plain, striped or jaspé and marbelized to printed patterns. Some of the latter are embossed in a carpet effect to give a more luxurious appearance.

Modern linoleum is made from a composition of oxidized linseed oil, ground cork, wood flour, mineral fillers and resin binders. The type that is to be laid in sheet form or stored in immense rolls is bonded to a backing of burlap or felt. This backing adds strength and resilience to the flooring and helps keep it pliable.

Linoleum is available in various thicknesses including heavy, standard and light gauge and is priced accordingly. The heavy is considered a lifetime linoleum. It has a burlap back and is used on floors that are subjected to really hard wear. The standard has a felt back. It is more moderately priced and should wear for a period up to 20 years in the average home. The light gauge linoleum, which is sometimes cut in rug sizes, will give

average service if foot traffic is not too great.

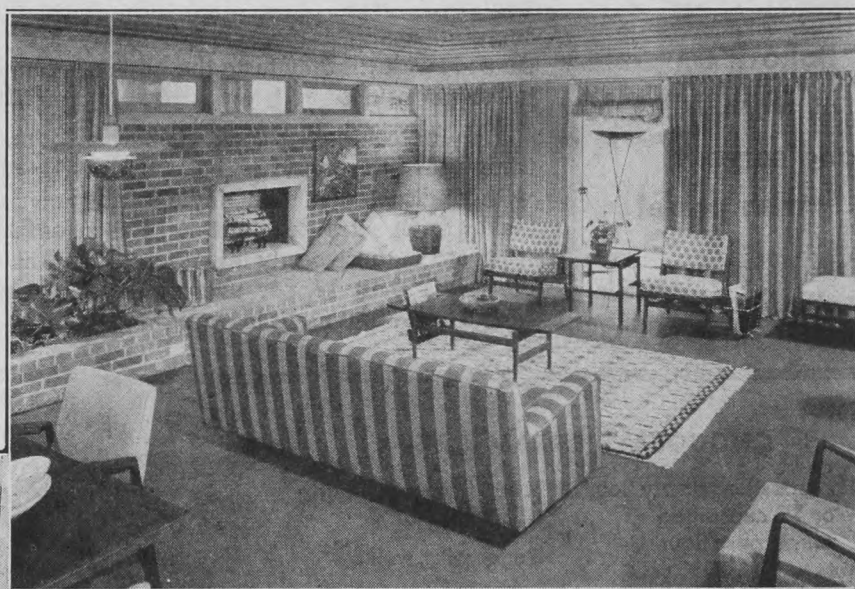
Similar in appearance to light gauge linoleum are the printed felt-base floor coverings. The pattern is applied in the form of an enamel surface which is finished in a high gloss. These are much less expensive than linoleum and will wear only until the printed surface is worn through.

Of all the tiles used in the home, linoleum is most popular. It may be made entirely of composition in heavy gauge or cut in tile form from linoleum sheets of various thicknesses. The tiles are made in squares and rectangles and vary in size from three to 36 inches.

**T**HE choice of tile or sheet linoleum is influenced by several factors. Well-laid linoleum has few seams or crevices to catch and hold the dirt. Tile is more economical when the floor area is broken by built-in cupboards or other permanent fixtures or where the room is irregular in shape. It is easier for the handyman to lay tile than linoleum in the yardage form and tile offers an almost unlimited choice in design.

Stable, colorful and long wearing, grease-proof and water-resistant, both linoleum and linoleum tile make a good all-around floor covering. They can be installed with excellent results on all level floors except concrete which is in direct contact with the ground.

Concrete floors in direct contact with the ground or floors without a well-ventilated place underneath are always



*Above: Cork tile on the floor of this modern, spacious living room adds a feeling of ease and luxury.*

*Left: By following instructions carefully home handy-men can successfully lay floor tile.*



damp to some degree. This "sweating" causes linoleum and other composition floorings to curl, as anyone who has had any experience with flooded floors knows. The moisture which continually rises through concrete is even more damaging. It contains alkaline salts which destroy all but asphalt tile, and perhaps the new vinyl tiles, in a very short time. Waterproofing compounds have not been too successful in preventing this transfer of moisture.

Due to its ability to resist alkaline moisture, asphalt tile is the best cover-

(Please turn to page 68)





## Chocolate Cream Cake

**Bake it  
with MAGIC  
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### CHOCOLATE CREAM CAKE

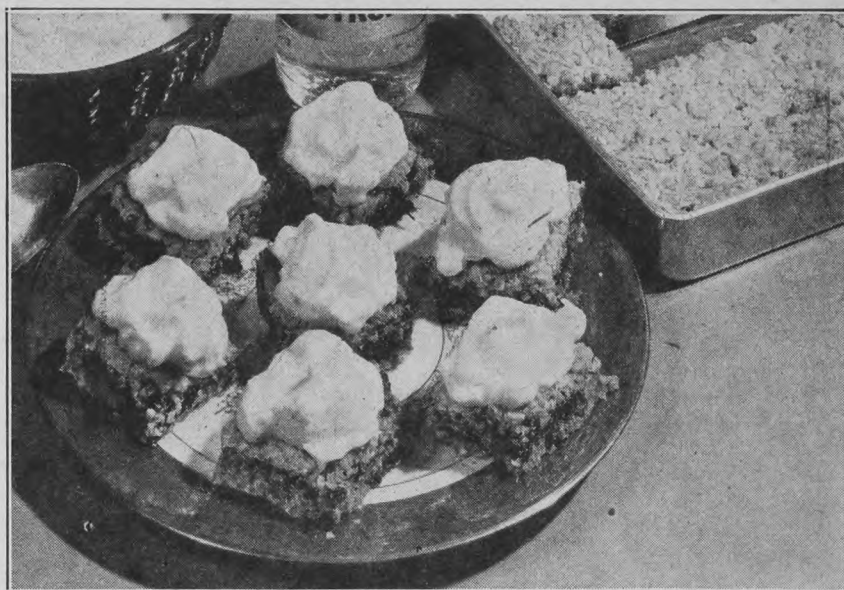
- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1½ cups sifted pastry flour<br>or 1⅓ cups sifted<br>all-purpose flour | ¾ cup fine granulated<br>sugar |
| 2½ tps. Magic Baking<br>Powder  | 3 egg yolks, well<br>beaten    |
| ½ tsp. salt   | ½ cup milk                     |
| 6 tpsps. butter or margarine  | ½ tsp. vanilla                 |

Grease two 8-inch round layer-cake pans and line bottoms with greased paper. Preheat oven to 375° (moderately hot). Sift flour, Magic Baking Powder and salt together 3 times. Cream butter or margarine; gradually blend in sugar; beat in well-beaten egg yolks. Measure milk and add vanilla. Add flour mixture to creamed mixture about a quarter at a time, alternating with three additions of milk and combining lightly after each addition. Turn into prepared pans. Bake in preheated oven 20 to 25 minutes. Fill and cover cold cake with 7-minute frosting; top with swirls of melted chocolate.



## Raisins for Flavor

*Pep up late-winter meals with flavorful  
raisin-packed salads and desserts*



Top raisin bars with whipped cream for a new and tempting dinner dessert.

**P**LUMP, juicy raisins add flavor and color to a favorite dessert or salad and included in new sauces, quick breads, puddings or tarts they can be depended upon to brighten winter meals.

Raisins are inexpensive and nutritious with a ready supply of fruit sugar for quick energy. Eaten as is they make an excellent between-meal snack. Yet they are not as sweet as some of the candy which children love and of which they eat too much.

Serve the raisin sauce the next time you have baked ham. It is as good as cranberry sauce with turkey or apple sauce with pork. Raisins make an excellent ingredient for end-of-winter salad when tasty fresh fruits and vegetables are at a premium, and the children will like the chess tarts tucked into the school lunchbox.

### Raisin Sauce

- |                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| ¼ c. seedless raisins | Boiling water               |
| ⅓ c. brown sugar      | 2 T. lemon juice            |
| 1½ T. flour           | 1 tsp. grated<br>lemon rind |
| ½ T. dry mustard      | 1 T. butter                 |
| ⅛ tsp. salt           | 1¾ c. water                 |
| ⅛ tsp. pepper         |                             |

Wash raisins and cover with boiling water. Soak 15 minutes. Mix dry ingredients. Add water and lemon juice, stirring well. Simmer slowly 10 minutes. Add raisins and lemon peel. Add butter. Serve hot with sliced tongue or ham. Makes 2½ cups.

### Raisin Nut Filling

- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| ½ c. brown sugar | ½ c. seedless<br>raisins |
| 1 T. butter      | ½ c. chopped<br>walnuts  |
| 3 T. water       | 1 tsp. vanilla           |
| ¼ tsp. salt      |                          |
| 2 T. cream       |                          |

Cook sugar, salt, butter and water in saucepan until mixture will form a soft ball when a teaspoon of it is dropped in cold water. Remove from heat. Add washed raisins, nuts, vanilla and cream. Use as filling for 2 8-inch layers of plain or walnut cake.

### Carolina Salad

- |                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| ½ c. raisins                    | 2 c. sour cream |
| 3 c. finely shredded<br>cabbage | 4 T. vinegar    |
| 3 c. apple slices               | 2 T. sugar      |
|                                 | 1 tsp. salt     |

Soak the raisins in 1½ c. sour cream overnight. Shortly before serving slice unpeeled apples very fine. Add finely shredded cabbage and apple to prepared raisins. To remaining ½ c. cream add

vinegar, sugar and salt. Mix well. Pour over salad, toss lightly and serve immediately.

### Carrot and Raisin Salad

- |                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| ¼ c. raisins       | ¼ c. boiled salad<br>dressing |
| 1 c. grated carrot |                               |

Scrape and grate carrot. Plump raisins by steaming in sieve over hot water for 10 minutes. Add to carrots. Toss with salad dressing. Serve on lettuce leaves.

### Boiled Raisin Cake

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 2 c. raisins      | 1 tsp. cloves   |
| 2 eggs            | 1 tsp. nutmeg   |
| 1 c. brown sugar  | 1¾ c. flour     |
| ⅝ c. butter       | 1 tsp. soda     |
| ⅝ c. raisin water | 1 T. cornstarch |
| 1 tsp. cinnamon   |                 |

Boil the raisins for 5 minutes in 2 c. water. Drain well, retaining water in which raisins were boiled. Cool. Beat eggs. Cream butter, add sugar and cream well. Add eggs. Sift together flour, spices, soda and cornstarch. Add alternately with raisin water and beat well. Stir in raisins. Bake at 350° F. for 50 minutes in a 7½ by 11-inch pan.

### Raisin Bars

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 c. chopped<br>raisins | 1 c. flour                 |
| 1 c. water              | 1 tsp. baking<br>powder    |
| ½ c. sugar              | ¼ tsp. salt                |
| ½ c. chopped nuts       | 1 c. quick cooking<br>oats |
| ½ c. butter             | Whipping cream             |
| 1 c. brown sugar        |                            |

Combine raisins, water and sugar in saucepan. Cook over medium heat until thick. Cool and add nuts. Cream butter, gradually cream in brown sugar. Sift together flour, baking powder and salt. Gradually add to creamed mixture. Add oats and mix until crumbly. Pat half of crumb mixture in 8 by 8 by 2-inch pan. Top with raisin mixture and spread remaining crumbs over top. Bake in slow oven 325° F. for about 45 minutes. Cool, cut in squares and serve topped with whipped cream flavored with cinnamon and vanilla.

### Chess Tarts

- |                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 c. seedless<br>raisins          | ⅔ c. light corn<br>syrup |
| 2 eggs                            | ⅓ c. melted butter       |
| ⅔ c. granulated<br>or brown sugar | 1 tsp. vanilla           |

Plump raisins by placing in sieve over boiling water, cover and steam 10 minutes. Beat eggs and sugar until thick; add corn syrup, butter, raisins and vanilla. Pour into pastry-lined tart tins. Bake in 300° F. oven for 1 hour. Makes 6 large tarts.



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## Floor Covering

Continued from page 65

ing for on or below-grade level concrete floors. Manufacturers recommend it for basement rooms and for grade-level concrete rather than for use in kitchens and bathrooms.

Asphalt, the lowest priced of all floor tiles on the market, has a fairly large color range. It is not as resilient as other tile although it is quieter than hardwood or cement. Dents and cuts are a danger in asphalt tile making furniture rests essential under table legs, other furniture and fixtures.

Asphalt tile is not quite as easy as other tiles to keep shining bright and it is less resistant to grease although recently a new asphalt tile has been introduced that is grease resistant to some extent.

**C**ORK tile is one of the oldest forms of floor covering. It has come back into style as a floor covering in the home. It comes only in natural shades but blends well with modern, colorful draperies and furnishings. It has a special look of luxury and a cushioning effect that affords one of the quietest of all composition floors. Its resilience makes walking and stand-

ing more comfortable and it has a special non-slip quality.

New developments and special processes have given cork tile a durable and lasting finish. Soft and porous by nature it is not meant for use in kitchens or heavy traffic areas. It is effective in dining rooms, living rooms, bedrooms and dens, where it is easily maintained.

Rubber tile until lately was considered a luxury flooring. In recent years it has been installed in kitchens and bathrooms of many homes. It has a mirror-like finish but tends to show dust, footprints and marks from synthetic rubber heels. Due to the natural

resiliency of rubber it has outstanding advantages of quietness and comfort.

Vinyl, a chemical compound that belongs to the plastic family, is now made into floor tiles. Used alone it makes a flexible, although expensive flooring. It may also be mixed with other substances to make a vinyl composition which is attached to an asbestos, rubber or felt base. Some are given a high gloss, others a satiny or dull finish.

Vinyl tile is a luxury flooring made to withstand heavy traffic for long periods of time. It is highly resistant to moisture and alkali; it can apparently be laid directly over concrete on or below grade level. It is ideal for kitchens as it is not affected by strong alkaline soaps, grease or acid.

To care for vinyl tiles follow the instructions given by the manufacturer. A comparatively new floor covering, some things have yet to be proven. Just how well it will stand up remains to be seen.

A cove base is made to match most types of resilient flooring. A combination of border and baseboard which is rounded at the base to fit into the join of floor and wall and up onto the wall, replacing the mop board, it may match or contrast with the flooring. It is ideal for kitchens and bathrooms where it eliminates corners to clean and it gives a finished appearance to the room.

The cove base is available in 18 or 24-inch lengths and is four or six inches high. According to installation experts it should be installed first and the main floor laid within the border it creates.

Smooth, even floors are essential in the laying of all linoleum and tile coverings. If a floor is rough, badly worn or uneven, but is structurally sound, it must be covered with an underlay before the covering is added. Large sheets of plywood nailed to a wood floor make an excellent underlay, or a floor fill similar to cement can be applied to a subfloor that needs levelling. Floor fill is made according to the flooring manufacturer's instructions and is trowelled on, levelled and left to dry for a week or ten days.

Manufacturers insist that lining felt should be laid under all tile floors and under linoleum which has a burlap back. If a plywood underlay is not used, lining felt is laid beneath felt-backed linoleum where it takes up any small irregularities in the subfloor. Lining felt compensates for the seasonal contraction and expansion of the floor boards and prevents the joints between the tiles from opening.

Costs of composition floor coverings vary according to type and, within each type, as to color, gauge, style and pattern. The darker colors of asphalt tile are lowest in price. Next is linoleum with the thinner gauges about equal in price to the more expensive, light-colored asphalt tile. Then in order follow linoleum tile, cork, rubber and, highest priced of all, the newly developed vinyl tiles.

Against the factor of price are balanced other considerations. The comfort derived from a quiet, resilient floor that needs a minimum of care will offset the original cost. Length of wear and amount of traffic which the covering can withstand are important. The appearance of the floor, determined mainly by room use, and including the color and a design that hides signs of traffic, must be considered.





# Make a March Stew

Long, slow cooking and colorful vegetables ensure a flavorful, full-bodied dish

**C**OLD, blustery March weather calls for meals that are hot, filling and nutritious. A piping hot stew of well-browned meat, vegetables and rich gravy is a meal in itself. It is easy to make and oh, so delicious!

Less tender cuts of beef make excellent stew. Beef round, chuck, flank, shank and brisket, if the latter are not too fat, make tasty inexpensive meals. Allow a pound of meat for four servings, wrap it loosely in waxed paper to store in the refrigerator and use it within two or three days of purchasing.

Although an Irish stew is made without browning the meat most people prefer a brown stew. Do not boil the meat but let it simmer long and slowly after browning to bring out the full flavor. As for vegetables combine colorful ones that are not too strongly flavored.

Dumplings with stew will hit the spot on a cold day when the family is extra hungry. Dumplings are made similarly to baking powder biscuits but should be cooked entirely in steam. Cover the pot tightly as soon as they are cooking and no peeking until serving time.

## Favorite Brown Stew

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 lb. beef                | 2 c. water             |
| 2 tsp. salt               | 2 tsp. Kitchen Bouquet |
| ½ tsp. pepper             | 2 T. catsup            |
| 1 tsp. paprika            | 8 medium potatoes      |
| ½ c. flour                | 8 medium carrots       |
| 4 T. fat                  | 8 medium onions        |
| 2 T. Worcestershire sauce |                        |

Cut meat into 10 to 12 pieces. Roll in blended salt, pepper, paprika and flour. Brown in fat in heavy kettle, until deep brown in color. Add water and seasonings. Cover tightly and simmer slowly for 2 hours. Add prepared vegetables, cover and cook another 30 minutes or until tender. Serve piping hot with meat in center of platter, vegetables around meat and broth served as gravy.

## Dumplings

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 c. flour           | ½ tsp. salt       |
| 2 tsp. baking powder | 1-2 T. shortening |
|                      | ½-¾ c. milk       |

When stew is ready to serve, remove meat and vegetables from broth and keep hot over hot water. Keep broth hot. Then make dumplings. Sift flour then measure. Add baking powder, salt and sift again. Cut in shortening. Stir in milk. Dip tablespoon in broth then dip up a spoonful of

batter and slip it off into the boiling broth. Keep broth boiling. After 5 minutes cover kettle tightly and boil without peeking. After 5 minutes the dumplings will be fluffy light. Serve at once. Makes 4 dumplings.

## Beef Goulash

- |                            |                                  |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 lb. beef stew meat       | 1 tsp. dry mustard               |
| 2 tsp. salt                | 2 T. chopped parsley             |
| ¼ tsp. pepper              | ¼ tsp. powdered sage or bay leaf |
| 1 T. paprika               | ½ bay leaf                       |
| ½ c. flour                 | 1 tsp. caraway seed              |
| 1 T. fat                   | 2 c. diced cooked beets          |
| 2 c. water                 | 1 T. vinegar                     |
| 1 T. Worcestershire sauce  |                                  |
| 1 clove garlic, if desired |                                  |

Cut beef in 2-inch cubes. Combine pepper, salt, paprika and flour. Roll meat to cover evenly with flour. Brown in hot fat. Add seasonings and sprinkle in extra flour. Stir in water. Simmer 2½ to 3 hours. Add diced beets and vinegar. Heat and serve.

## Chicken Fricassee

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 4-lb. stewing chicken | 3 c. water            |
| 2 tsp. salt             | ¼ c. chopped onion    |
| 1 tsp. paprika          | 2 tsp. salt           |
| Pepper                  | 1 bay leaf (optional) |
| ½ c. flour              | ½ c. milk             |
| ½ c. fat                |                       |

Cut chicken into 10 or 12 fairly uniformly sized pieces. Rinse in cold water. Pat dry. Combine salt, paprika, pepper and flour. Roll pieces of chicken in flour mixture. Heat fat and add pieces of chicken; cook and turn until uniformly browned. Add water, onion, salt and bay leaf. Cover. Simmer slowly until tender. Remove chicken to casserole. Boil down or add water to make 2 c. broth. Stir 2 T. flour into milk; stir in ½ c. hot broth then stir into boiling broth. Boil 5 minutes. Season if necessary. Pour over hot chicken. Serve with hot baking powder biscuits.

## Scotch Stew

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 lb. lamb shoulder meat | 1 onion, sliced        |
| 1 T. fat                 | 2 T. chopped parsley   |
| 4 c. water               | 3 celery tops, chopped |
| ½ c. pearl barley        | 2 tsp. salt            |
| 6 medium potatoes        |                        |

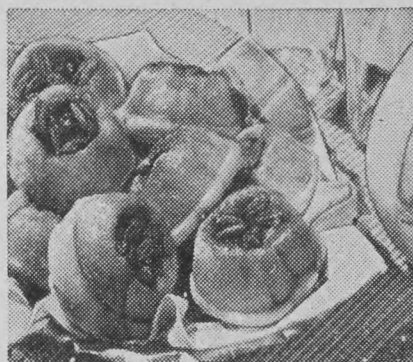
Heat fat in heavy kettle. Cut meat into 2-inch cubes and brown well in hot fat. Add water, barley, sliced onion, salt, chopped parsley and celery tops. Cook slowly 1½ hours. Add potatoes and cook slowly 30 minutes.



For hearty eating, brown stew with plenty of vegetables is a success.

# Make All Four of these thrilling oven treats with One Basic Dough!

## 1. Chelsea Twirls



## 2. Orange Whirls



## 3. Date Eights



## 4. Jam Ring



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Needs no refrigeration!

## BASIC PINWHEEL DOUGH

### Scald

- 1½ cups milk
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 2¼ teaspoons salt
- ¾ cup shortening

Remove from heat and cool to lukewarm.

In the meantime, measure into a large bowl

- ¾ cup lukewarm water

- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar

and stir until sugar is dissolved. Sprinkle with contents of

- 3 envelopes Fleischmann's Active Dry Yeast

Let stand 10 minutes, THEN stir well.

Stir in lukewarm milk mixture and

- 3 well-beaten eggs

Stir in

- 4½ cups once-sifted bread flour and beat until smooth and elastic; work in 4½ cups more (about) once-sifted bread flour

Turn out on lightly-floured board and knead dough lightly until smooth and elastic. Place in a greased bowl and grease top of dough. Cover and set dough in warm place, free from draught, and let rise until doubled in bulk. Turn out dough on lightly-floured board and knead lightly until smooth. Divide into 4 equal portions and finish as follows:

## 1. INDIVIDUAL CHELSEA TWIRLS

Cream ¼ cup butter or margarine and ½ cup brown sugar; divide into 12 greased muffin pans; add pecans. Cream 2 tbsps. butter or margarine, 2 tssps. cinnamon and ½ cup brown sugar. Roll out one portion of dough 12 by 10 inches. Sprinkle with cinnamon mixture and ½ cup raisins; beginning at long side, roll up loosely; cut into 12 slices. Place in pans. Grease tops. Cover and let rise until doubled. Bake at 350°, 15 to 18 mins.

## 2. ORANGE WHIRLS

Boil together for 3 mins., stirring, ½ cup butter or margarine, 1 tbsp. grated orange rind, ½ cup orange juice and ¾ cup gran. sugar; cool. Spread half in greased 8-inch square pan. Roll out one portion of dough 16 by 10 inches; spread with rest of orange mixture; beginning at long side, roll up loosely; cut into 16 slices. Arrange in pan. Grease tops. Cover and let rise until doubled. Bake at 350°, about 30 mins.

## 3. DATE EIGHTS

Combine ½ lb. cut-up dates, 1 cup water, ½ cup gran. sugar and 1 tbsp. butter or margarine; boil gently, stirring often, until thick; cool. Roll out one portion of dough into 12-inch square; spread half with half of filling and roll up to centre. Turn dough over; spread remainder with filling and roll up to centre. Cut into 12 slices. Place, well apart, on greased pan. Grease tops. Cover and let rise until doubled. Bake at 350°, 14 to 16 mins. Spread hot buns with icing.

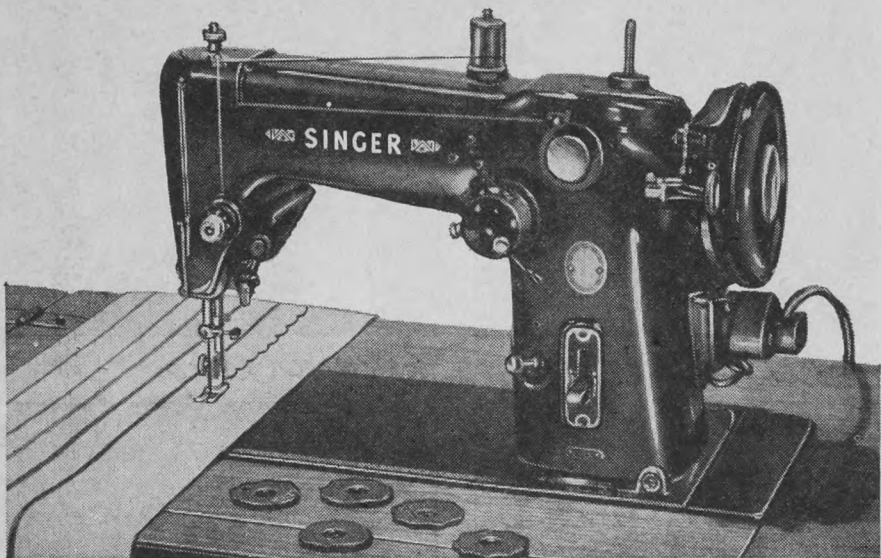
## 4. JAM RING

Roll out one portion of dough 16 by 8 inches. Spread with ½ cup thick jam and ½ cup chopped nuts; beginning at long side, roll up loosely. Twist dough from end to end; form into ring on greased pan. Grease top. Cover and let rise until doubled. Bake at 350°, 25 to 30 mins. Spread hot ring with white icing; decorate top.

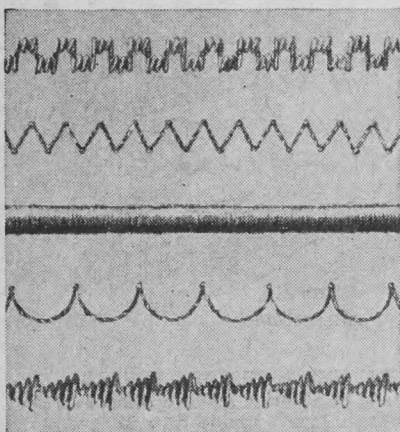


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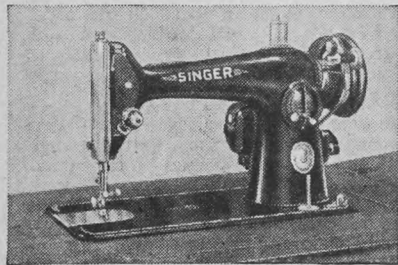
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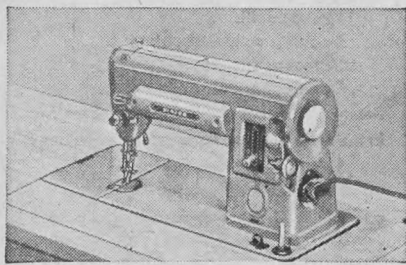


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## Ideas for Spring

Brighten end-of-winter spirits with these quickly made, colorful items

by ANNA LOREE

### Design No. E-2600

A perky yellow felt duck will delight youngsters of six to sixty on Easter morning. It is nine inches high and stuffed with cotton wadding. The feet are reinforced with millinery wire and the little fellow stands up very well. You will need ¼ yard 36-inch felt, a piece of orange felt three by twelve inches and 14 inches of satin ribbon. Toy duck is Design No. E-2600. Price 10 cents.



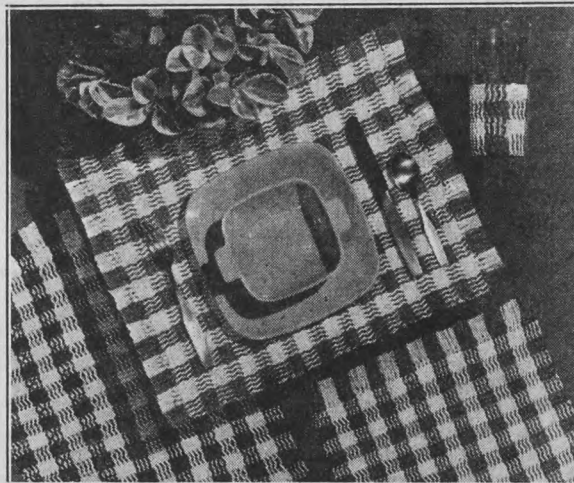
### Design No. 6531-D

This snug-fitting little crocheted hat gaily sprinkled with white flowers each centered with a rhinestone makes a most useful and charming spring hat. Wear it at the most becoming angle and expect flattering comments from all. You will need two balls each of colored and white cronita cotton, Nos. 5 and 7 steel crochet hooks, and 100 rhinestones. Sparkle-trimmed hat is Design No. 6531-D. Price 10 cents.



### Design No. CS-400

Tartan mats crocheted of red and white cronita cotton make decidedly different place mats. Made in stripes of red and white they are entirely double crochet. Extra strands of thread are then woven in to make this pretty tartan. Matching glass jacket included on the instruction sheet. You will need two balls of red, two white crochet cotton and a No. 7 steel hook. Design is No. CS-400. Price 10 cents.



### Design No. PC-4131

Keep some needlework on hand for working in odd moments at tea time, while visiting or while waiting for the family to come in for dinner. This fresh, crisp-looking centerpiece is made up of a group of small motifs crocheted together in a hexagon shape. It measures 15 inches in diameter, each motif is 1¼ inches across the center. And the same motif pattern may be used for making a tablecloth, runner or doilies. Materials required include 4 balls No. 30 crochet cotton and a No. 10 steel crochet hook. Hexagon-shaped centerpiece is Design No. PC-4131. Price 10 cents.



Address orders to The Country Guide Needlework Department, 290 Vaughan Street, Winnipeg 2, Manitoba.



# Care of Floors

*Means longer wear, better appearance and satisfaction  
with composition floor coverings*

**L**INOLEUM or composition tile is the usual choice in floor covering for rooms where tracking, spills or much traffic is expected. It is comfortable for walking and standing. It is colorful and its smooth finish requires a minimum of day-to-day and week-to-week cleaning. For the best in wear and to keep the floor gleaming with its original clear, bright colors, proper care is important.

Sweeping with a soft hair brush is all the daily care that is normally required. Or, if you prefer, dry mop the floor daily with a clean dust mop. Make a practice of wiping up spills before they dry or become sticky. Wipe the floor with a clean cloth that has been wrung out in clear, warm water or damp mop it when necessary to remove dust, lint or any spots that are not removed by sweeping. Polish the floor regularly.

Three or four thorough washings a year is all that is necessary for the average floor. Wash with warm water in which a mild soap is dissolved. Rinse well and dry thoroughly. Apply two or three thin coats of wax and polish well after each application.

Care should be taken when washing not to use an excess of water and to dry the floor thoroughly. Any remaining water may work its way beneath the covering and, in time, cause it to loosen and curl. Once this happens, new linoleum or tile is the only solution.

Quick cleaners, alkaline or lye solutions, strong soaps and detergents quickly rob the covering of its natural oils. It may turn grey and cloudy in appearance. It becomes brittle and the finish may actually wash away leaving a rough, porous, hard-to-clean surface.

Solvents, such as gasoline, turpentine, benzine and naphtha do more harm to a floor than the most constant wear. Like alkali, they remove the natural oils from linoleum and tile. The colors tend to run or fade and the covering becomes dry and lifeless.

There is no cure for a flooring from which the oil has been removed by strong soap or solvent. It can be improved somewhat by cleaning well with warm water and mild soap, rinsing and drying thoroughly. Wax it three or four times lightly and polish well after each application.

Oil must never be applied to asphalt or rubber tile. It is not advisable for use on any composition floor. Oil or an oil mop, grease or soap with an oil base softens the asphalt or rubber composition. The colors run and the floor slowly disintegrates.

Proper waxing is of utmost importance for the best in wear and appearance. Well-polished, thin layers of wax build up into a solid protective coat. It prevents dirt being ground into the surface. It helps protect the covering from scratches and small dents and it makes for easier cleaning. At the same time the wax enhances the appearance of the floor, giving it a deep lustre.

A liquid wax, of the self-polishing type, is preferable for all composition

floors. It has a water-emulsion base which dries quickly, polishes easily and can be removed by washing. Solid and paste waxes should not be used. They have solvent as a base. It is definitely harmful to asphalt and rubber tile and, in time, all floorings become brittle from its use.

Apply the wax in very thin coats. Use long straight strokes and work in one direction only. Buff with a soft cloth or polisher after each application. A thick layer of wax hardens only at the surface. Walking disturbs the top layer. The floor becomes sticky. Dust and dirt are tracked on and the floor is uncomfortable for walking.

Once the surface is properly waxed, the weekly care includes a re-waxing where traffic or wiped-up spills have removed most of the original coat. Wash and apply one or two coats of fresh wax to this area only. Then polish the entire floor. The original sheen should be restored to the untouched sections to match the lustre of the newly waxed areas.

A thick layer of wax may accumulate on less-used portions of the floor, tending to give those portions a yellow cast. It may be due to over-zealous care, too-heavy applications of wax or to the building up of several layers when wax with a solvent base is used.

To remove the accumulated wax, scrub the areas with a stiff scrubbing brush. If it is really thick or stubborn, rub with number 00 steel wool. Wash with warm, soapy water. Repeat until all the wax is off.

Paint, shellac or varnish should not be applied to linoleum or tile. Soon after application these may dull or darken, or chip and peel near radiators and stove or under furniture legs. In a short time the finish wears off much-used areas thus accenting them.

For all but the oilcloth type of flooring, the only solution is to remove the entire finish. This is a difficult job, involving much time and effort. Working on a small area at a time, rub with steel wool. Wash with warm, soapy water and repeat until the finish is off. If this is not successful write the manufacturer of the floor covering stating what finish was applied, the type of floor covering you have and asking his advice on the method of removal.

Under no circumstances try to remove paint, varnish or similar finish from a printed felt-base floor covering or rug. Instead, wash the floor more often to prevent dirt accumulating in the pores. Use mild soap dissolved in warm water; rinse, dry and wax well each time.

Composition floors are often indented by furniture legs if the floor is not properly protected. Particularly troublesome are modern chrome and metal tables, chairs and other pieces with sharp edges, small or pointed feet. Furniture rests which spread the weight of the furniture over a larger area or rubber "socks" should be used. Choose the proper size for the weight of the furniture and a style that harmonizes with the furniture.

Some types of furniture, such as a refrigerator or stove, do not lend them-

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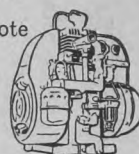
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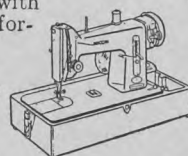


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2. All entries become property of Standard Brands Limited, none will be returned, no correspondence entered into. Judges' decisions are final. Entries will be judged on interest and sincerity. You

accept these rules when you enter the contest.

3. Contest ends midnight May 14. All entries must be postmarked before that time. Winners will be notified by mail. Contest is open to all persons residing in Canada, except employees of Standard Brands, its advertising agencies, and their respective families.



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selves to furniture rests. Yet they should not be placed directly on the floor. A four-inch block of smooth wood, painted to match the floor or the equipment, may be placed under each corner or leg.

Other imprint marks may be caused by shoes with protruding nails. If your floor is covered with a network of tiny scratches or pockmarked with small dents, inspect the shoes of each member of your family. Replacing a heel lift or driving in the offending nail head will prevent further trouble. —L.V.

## Handy Clothespins

by MARGUERITE M. TOLTL

GRANDMA used to say that a clothespin is "just as handy as a pocket in an apron." How right she was! There are so many ways that this little gadget can be put to use, that the part it plays in hanging out the family wash can be regarded as just a spare-time job. Here are a few of the ways that the snap-type clothespin can be utilized.

To use a clothespin as a handy towel holder, just nail one of its legs to the wood facing of the sink. Paint the clothespin to match the woodwork and use it for clipping on a hand towel just where you need it. This is a good idea when there are children in the house. This new gadget attracts them and you'll seldom have to pick a towel up off the floor. Children just love to snap that towel back into place.

When using a recipe while cooking, stand a snap clothespin on its two legs

on the table and fasten the recipe you are using into the clip at the top. Or, if you are in the habit of using a counter at the cupboard for preparing food, glue a clothespin inside the cupboard door above your food preparation counter. Paint it so that it will be inconspicuous and clip the recipe card in when you need it. You'll never have to touch the recipe with floury or greasy hands and your recipe will always stay clean and readable.

Clothespins also make good paper clips. Paint several clothespins in bright, eye-catching colors and clip your papers together. They will always remain in order and will be easy to find.

For a skirt hanger, clip two or three snap clothespins over the bar of a wire clothes hanger and fasten to the top of the skirt. Men's trousers can be hung neatly with clothespins. Simply fasten the trouser cuffs to the clothes hanger with snap pins. Use six clothespins to hold them securely as trousers are heavier than skirts.

To protect fingers when scouring pots and pans, clip a clothespin onto the steel wool or other cleansing pad. This makes a splinterless handle and prevents the tiny wires of the pad from scratching the hands.

Snap clothespins are a help too, when straining food through cloth. When making jelly or straining fat, etc., fasten the cloth or bag to the saucepan or pot with clothespins all around the top edge to hold the bag wide open. Then you can use both your hands to handle the food.

Yes, Grandma was right when she said that a clothespin was as handy as a pocket in an apron. Her grand-

daughter will go even further and say that a clothespin is the next best thing to an extra hand—and it seems that we all could do nicely with an extra hand on many occasions.

## Shopping

*When Mother sends me shopping  
For things in paper bags;  
What I really need most  
Are extra arms and legs.*

*Dear me, now what's that dropping?  
I hope it's our clothes pegs . . .  
But I'm very much afraid  
T'was Mother's box of eggs!*

—EFFIE BUTLER.

## Household Hints

Shelf paper in the pantry gets dirty and has to be changed so often that it is better to cover shelves with oilcloth. When they are spotted or dusty you have only to swish your dish cloth over them. Seal the shelf edges with scotch tape to prevent dirt from getting under the oilcloth and to keep it from curling.

To clean belts to cotton dresses which you hesitate to put in the washer, dip an old toothbrush in cleaning fluid or a dry suds solution; brush lightly over the belt, being careful not to soak it.

To store a rubber sheet, sprinkle it well with talcum powder, making sure that the surface is well covered, then roll around a mailing tube. It won't stick and will last for years.

A cook book cover can be kept clean and in good condition with a light coating of shellac. This will help keep off food and finger marks. Recipe cards, too, will benefit from a coat of transparent shellac. Greasy marks can be wiped off after use without smearing the ink.

Cut discarded quilted crib pads into squares with pinking shears and use the pieces as hot-dish holders. You won't have to bind or hem them, and they will protect your hands from hot dishes.

An effective duster for dusting grooves and troublesome corners in furniture, is a small one-or-two-inch paint brush; the soft hairs of the brush reach places that a cloth can't touch. Keep one in your housecleaning apron pocket, or in your basket of cleaning supplies.

If you're a windowsill gardener all winter long, decorate your earthenware flower pots by painting them to match or accent the room's decor. The leaves touching the rim of the flower pot need protection from the corrosive action of certain soil elements which seep through the clay pot. The answer is to coat the rim with a film of paraffin wax. First, melt the wax in a large double boiler. Then, dip the rim of the pot into the liquid until it is well coated.

When soot is spilled accidentally on carpets or rugs, sprinkle dry salt over the spots. It can then be swept away without smearing.

# To put them to bed in clean, clean clothes...



MRS. ELIZABETH McCLEAN OF ISLINGTON, ONTARIO

is one of our smart Canadian mothers who wouldn't do without Tide. "I tried almost every washday product made before I chose Tide for good," Mrs. McClean says. "I love the way Tide gets our wash really clean . . . at real savings, too. White things come so white, so fresh looking. And coloured washables—well, you can certainly trust them to Tide!"

## smart Canadian mothers use Tide

**Nothing else can beat Tide for cleaning power!**

Tests made in hardest water prove it . . . nothing else will wash as clean as Tide, yet costs so little to use! Yet, with all this terrific cleaning power, Tide is the mildest of all leading detergents . . . so kind to hands, so safe for bright wash colours. Next washday, use Tide.

P.S. Tide's also wonderful for dairy utensils—gets them thoroughly clean. Helps prevent milkstone . . . lowers bacteria count! So thrifty to use, too.

**NOTHING ELSE WILL WASH AS CLEAN  
AS CANADA'S OWN Tide  
—yet costs so little to use!**





Carry a plastic bag with you when you go to get meat. Meat juices cannot seep through it onto your clothes, or onto the car seats.—I.W.D.

CARRY MEAT IN PLASTIC BAG



Don't shake an electric toaster to get the crumbs out as this may harm the heating apparatus. Instead, use a small, soft paint brush to brush out the crumbs; it will easily reach the inner parts of the toaster.

You should never shake varnish or enamel products to mix them. Shaking creates tiny air bubbles, resulting in pin-prick bumps which mar the finished job. You can make candles last twice as long by giving them a coat of clear varnish. They'll not only burn longer but the finish keeps wax from dripping. The life of a broom can be doubled by giving the bristle ends a coating of shellac.

Don't leave it to guesswork in matching color or the amount needed when buying slip cover or drapery material. I leave nothing up to chance when I go shopping for new drapes, for I take along a sample of the wallpaper used in the room where the drapes are to be hung or the furniture slip covered. In this way I can match colors exactly. On the back of this sample I write the exact amount of yardage needed. So there is no mistake made in getting the yardage I want.

## Make a Variety

If there isn't time to make several batches of cookies to serve at tea, for a children's party or after a meeting, mix up this basic dough. Divide it into several parts, add different flavorings and trims. You have seven varieties made in the time usually spent on one.

### Seven-from-One Cookies

2 c. shortening      5 c. sifted flour  
3 c. sugar            1 tsp. baking powder  
4 eggs  
¼ c. milk              1 tsp. salt  
4 tsp. vanilla

Mix shortening, sugar and eggs thoroughly. Stir in milk and vanilla. Sift dry ingredients together and stir into mixture until well blended. Divide dough, using half for plain dough, one-quarter spiced and one-quarter chocolate.

**Plain:** Divide into three portions. Wrap and chill well.

**Scalloped Cookies:** Roll and cut. Decorate with small colored candies. Bake 6 minutes.

**Crescents:** Work into dough ½ c. moist coconut. Shape small portions of dough into crescents 1¼ inches wide in center. Chill. Bake 8 minutes. Trim with tinted uncooked icing.

**Nut Wafers:** Sprinkle dough with chopped nuts. Roll thin. Cut in shapes and bake 7 minutes.

**Spiced:** Mix ¼ tsp. cloves and 1 tsp. cinnamon into basic dough.

**Frosted Spice Cookies:** Chill half of spiced dough. Roll and cut. Bake 7 minutes. Cool. Frost.

**Cherry Drops:** Soak 20 glazed cherries in warm water 5 minutes. Drain. Cut in quarters. Work cherries and ¼ c. chopped nuts into remaining spiced dough.

Drop by teaspoons onto cookie sheet. Bake 10 minutes.

**Chocolate:** Pour ¼ c. water over ¼ c. cocoa. Stir to blend. Mix into remaining one-quarter of basic dough.

**Pecan Crisps:** To ½ chocolate dough add ½ c. chopped pecans and 1 c. corn flakes. Drop by teaspoon onto cookie sheet. Top each with pecan half. Bake 8 to 10 minutes.

**Date Wrap-ups:** Use a rounded teaspoon of chocolate dough to completely cover a pitted soft date. Bake on cookie sheet 10 minutes. Cool. Sprinkle with confectioner's sugar.

## Varieties to Freeze

### Suggested fruits and vegetables for home growing

AS a guide to those who intend to preserve fruits and vegetables by freezing the following varieties are recommended. Results have proved satisfactory in repeated scientific tests on each, at the Fruits and Vegetables Products Laboratory, Dominion Experimental Station, Morden.

We do not attempt to enumerate all varieties recommended for freezing. The ones listed have proved reliable for growing under prevailing conditions in the prairie provinces.

### Vegetable Varieties

Asparagus	Mary Washington
Beans, green	Tendergreen Stringless Green Pod Topcrop
Beans, wax	Round Pod Kidney Wax Top Notch Golden Wax Pencil Pod Black Wax
Broccoli	Italian Green Sprouting
Cauliflower	Snowball "A" Snowball "X"
Corn	Burbank Golden Bantam
Peas	Little Marvel Lincoln (Homesteader) Selkirk
Peppers	Harris Earliest Morgold
Spinach	Bloomsdale King of Denmark Giant Nobel

### Fruit Varieties

Cherries, red	Nanking Manchurian
Currants, red	Diploma Red Lake Stephens
Gooseberries	Abundance Pixwell
Muskmelons	Far North Champlain
Peaches	Vedette Aliant Veteran J. H. Hale Elberta
Plums	Manor Sapa Dura
Raspberries	Chief Latham Madawaska
Rhubarb	Valentine Macdonald Canada Red
Strawberries	Dunlap Gem Glenheart
Saskatoons	Native

For clear, concise instructions of proper freezing methods write for the booklet, Freezing Preservation of Fruits and Vegetables, by A. L. Shewfelt, to the Fruits and Vegetables Products Laboratory, Dominion Experimental Station, Morden, Man.



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is good tea

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# Looking to Spring



No. 1030—For spring, dress up a basic style with one of six different collars. Style-setting sailors, two versions of large puritan and small collars included. Materials required for small collar  $\frac{1}{2}$  yard; sailor 1 yard; puritan  $1\frac{5}{8}$  yards and tied sailor  $1\frac{1}{2}$  yards. Price 35 cents.

No. 4979—Versatile smock to make in two lengths, sleeveless or with long or short sleeves. Has back and front yoke. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years, 40, 42 and 44-inch bust. Size 18 requires  $4\frac{1}{2}$  yards 36-inch or  $3\frac{3}{4}$  yards 39-inch material. Price 35 cents.

No. 4931—Flatteringly simple blouse with button front, long, short or three-quarter sleeves and small collar or Windsor tie. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years. Size 16 requires  $2\frac{1}{2}$  yards 39-inch material. Price 35 cents.

No. 1013—This suspender skirt is fun to wear. For play make a shortie length, for the office make a plain waistband. Has shaped set-in side pockets, center-back closing and 95-inch flare. Sizes 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 30-inch waist (11 to 18 years). Size 26 (14 years) requires 3 yards 36-inch or 2 yards 54-inch material. Price 35 cents.

No. 4837—For spring make this princess jumper and little-girl blouse. Simple-to-make blouse has button front, set-in sleeves. Jumper flares to 120 inches. Sizes 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 18 years. Size 14 requires  $4\frac{5}{8}$  yards 36-inch or 3 yards 54-inch for jumper;  $1\frac{1}{4}$  yards 36-inch material for blouse. Price 35 cents.

No. 4974—Middy blouse has slightly shaped bodice to wear outside, belted or plain, or to tuck into your skirt. Tie included in pattern. Sizes 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 18 years. Size 14 requires  $2\frac{1}{8}$  yards 36-inch or  $1\frac{3}{8}$  yards 54-inch material. Price 35 cents.

No. 4975—Center front and side pleats add smartness to this slim skirt. Sizes 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34 and 36-inch waist (12 to 42). Size 30 (18 years) requires  $2\frac{3}{8}$  yards 36-inch or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  yards 54-inch material. Price 35 cents.

No. 1053—Mix-match separates repeat spring's long-waisted look. Skirt is slim, jerkin has front slits and buttoned back. Blouse has plain front and long sleeves. Sizes 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 18 years. Size 14 requires  $3\frac{3}{8}$  yards 36-inch or  $2\frac{1}{8}$  yards 54-inch for skirt and jerkin,  $2\frac{1}{8}$  yards 36-inch material for blouse. Price 50 cents.

State size and number for each pattern ordered.

Note price, to be included with order.

Write name and address clearly.

Order Simplicity Patterns from The Country Guide Pattern Service, Winnipeg 2, or direct from your local dealer.



# How to Move In Comfort

*Planning a move is absolutely essential, but sometimes it is nice to have the best-laid plans gang agley*

by HAZEL G. MAUNDRELL

AFTER two winters on our isolated farm, we decided we were not meant for winter hibernation, and that town seemed a far better place.

"Before the snow flies," we said, "we'll be in town—somehow."

House prices were prohibitive, but lots in town were reasonable, so we bought two of the latter, to allow for plenty of living room, and reluctantly made up our minds to move our old farm house in.

The house was built by a bachelor about forty years ago, and though I'm certainly not condemning bachelors in general, this one, I'm sure, would have benefited by a softening feminine influence. Being tall and spare himself, he designed the place on similar lines, it seemed; and with all the prairie to spread on, he built up instead of out. Easier to heat, probably, but looking like a wart on a particularly enormous elephant. The mere idea of uprooting the contraption and hauling it 15 miles made me shudder.

Still, the men who do these things didn't pale and stagger when we approached them, though I was watching carefully for signs of shock. Finally a date was set; and we built a foundation in town.

During the intervening week I became tied in a series of complicated internal knots that would have made a tatting expert green with envy. What if The Thing (I capitalized it mentally) fell apart? A fairly weak two-year-old could shake it. What if the stove and refrigerator fell through the floor? I had visions of them clanking out onto the highway en route. What to do with dishes—suddenly I had too many, though as my husband carefully reminded me, I'd recently been hollering for more. House plants? Cats? Dog?—a large dog who'd suffered from car sickness since birth. Radio? Shelves covered with doodads, all breakable?

Came the day for jacking up, moving to follow next day.

"It'll be quite O.K.," said the men, backed by my husband. "We only move the jacks a few inches at a time, nothing inside needs to be moved." Being skeptical by nature, I took down the most insecure things anyway.

At the first horrible creak and groan, three cats gave me a startled stare and fled to the stubble. Personally, I thought that was a darn good idea, for as time passed, the opera of protest from the old house

increased, and the dog and I stared at each other dubiously.

"It's all right," I said to him, rather uncertainly. He blinked. "Well," I thought, "my faithful hound stays with me, even though I feel like the boy who stood on the burning deck, whence all but he had fled."

Then came another subterranean crash, a groan, and from right under the spot where the dog was sitting, a ghastly echoing roar:

"Goldarn the blasted thing," or words to that effect. The faithful hound promptly leaped a foot, and with a dirty look that clearly said I was to blame for all this, took a nose-dive off the stepless porch.

By dark the place looked more like a skyscraper than ever. The men went home, well pleased with the day's work, and we drove to town for supper . . . a propane stove, minus tank, being merely an irritation.

Fried foods were barred to me, as I'd had a gall bladder attack recently; but after the day's excitement, I waded into a cheese omlette without a thought. By midnight I knew I'd made a mistake, and my husband drove me the 15 miles back to town while I sat beside him, curled up with pain like a pretzel.

In the hospital, with hot water bottles and a pin-cushion arm, I tried frantically to think of all the things which I thought my husband wouldn't think of during the move, and gave long, slightly drug-fuddled lists of instructions, including, or so he says, one about making sure the goldfish didn't jump out of the car,

or the water slop out of the cats.

By morning I felt much better, but the doctor informed me that even if we were moving Buckingham Palace to Siberia, I still wasn't going home till night; so there I sat, and stewed.

Then it occurred to me that the route the house would take would probably be right past the hospital. A faint, guilty enjoyment began to creep in. Not only had I missed all the upheaval, about which I couldn't do a thing, even if I were there, but also I was to have a grandstand view of the whole proceeding. I hitched the curtains back behind my bed and relaxed.

Ten o'clock, twelve o'clock, no house. I began to worry again. It *had* fallen apart, it must have—then suddenly I saw our toilet trundling past on the back of our truck. From the brief glimpse I got of my husband, everything was going well. His hair hadn't turned white; in fact he looked the same as usual. But still no house.

At three o'clock my husband and son came to visit, hiding behind huge grins and considerable grime.

"Where's the house?" I said, before they were properly through the door.

"On the lot, all set," they laughed. "Came in across the fields, not a thing broken, swell job. We're just cleaning up the mess."

For a moment I was so relieved that the last remark didn't register, then I said, "What mess?" and noticed at the same time that the front of my husband's jacket was adorned with a waterfall effect of face powder.

"Did you have a fight with a woman?"



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"Just a cupboard," he grinned.  
"When the house started moving it  
acted like Fibber McGee's, and I was  
in the way."

At 9:00 p.m. I left the hospital,  
tucked my pyjamas in a shopping  
bag, walked one block and there was  
home, a little more aged looking, per-  
haps, but suddenly I loved it, just for  
being where it was.

When we move again, which we  
hope to do when we can afford a new  
house, I shall presumably be without  
my gall bladder, but on that next  
moving day, if no other, I shall miss  
it like an old friend. V

## Weather and the Business Climate

THE impact on the Canadian econ-  
omy of last year's adverse crop  
conditions is a sharp reminder of the  
effect which weather still exerts on  
the business climate of the nation.  
Although the gross national product  
declined only about two per cent, from  
\$24.3 billion in 1953 to \$23.9 billion  
for 1954, these figures conceal a good  
deal more than they reveal. Particu-  
lar areas and industries suffered far  
more heavily than the over-all figures  
indicate; in some cases it was as much  
as 50 per cent.

Sharpest decline was registered in  
the gross value of our field crops,  
which fell from \$1.8 billion in 1953,  
to an estimated \$1.1 billion last year.  
Again, this does not reveal the true  
extent of the blow, because the brunt

Give to him that asketh thee, and  
from him that would borrow of  
thee turn not thou away.—Matthew  
5:42.

of the loss fell on one particular crop,  
wheat, and on one particular region,  
the prairie provinces. In one of these,  
namely Saskatchewan, poor weather  
conditions and the accompanying rust  
epidemic caused the decline to assume  
disastrous proportions.

Following three remarkable harvests  
which averaged about 600 million  
bushels, the 1954 wheat crop is be-  
lieved to be less than half that amount.  
This harvest of some 298,909,000  
bushels, valued at \$314,876,000, rep-  
resents a decline of over 50 per cent  
from the 1953 yield of 613,962,000  
bushels, with a value of \$782,521,000.  
Saskatchewan, the principle sufferer,  
harvested an estimated 151,000,000  
bushels, valued at \$152,510,000, as  
compared with the 1953 crop of  
375,000,000 bushels, valued at \$476,-  
250,000. Manitoba and Alberta, where  
yields declined from 46,000,000  
bushels in 1953 to 26,000,000 bushels  
in 1954, and from 163,000,000 bushels  
in 1953 to 95,000,000 bushels in 1954,  
respectively, each showed a drop of  
about 44 per cent. In all three prov-  
inces the decline was aggravated by a  
poor quality product.

In spite of the development of oil  
and gas industries and considerable  
diversification of production, it would  
appear that wheat is still "king" on the  
prairies. A poor crop has a sharp effect  
on the business outlook of the West,  
and in no small degree, the whole  
Canadian economy, for many busi-  
nesses find a large part of their market  
in the prairie provinces, or are con-  
cerned with the movement and mar-  
keting of grain. V

## He Looks For New Ideas

*Ponds, drainage, cattle and fertilizer are  
all included in plans for the Steiert farm*



This old abandoned schoolhouse was made-to-order for a grain storage emergency on the Steiert farm.

THE three-section farm of R. J.  
Steiert, at Sibbald, Alberta, is  
bursting at the seams with unsold  
grain, but Mr. Steiert solved his stor-  
age problems last summer by copying  
the plan of many Kindersley, Sas-  
katchewan, farmers. Driving through  
that district, he noticed quonset-type  
buildings on nearly every farm. He  
inquired as to their cost and construc-  
tion, and decided to build one himself.

Using laminated rafters and ply-  
wood sheets, he built one 40 feet by  
60 feet, with a capacity of 30,000  
bushels. Including the cement founda-  
tion, the total cost of materials was  
\$2,000, while three men worked for  
about three weeks to erect it. Now,  
with all joints tarred, and the surface  
protected with a coat of raw linseed  
oil, he has a permanent building.  
Once the grain marketing situation  
eases, he will use it for machinery  
storage.

But that is only one phase of the  
Steiert farm development. He moved  
from the Prelate district of southern  
Saskatchewan in 1941, and decided on

Sibbald as a place where more land  
was available. Though he now lives  
in the border town of Alsask, he plans  
to build a new home on the farm. With  
children approaching school age and  
soon ready to take a greater interest in  
the farm, a small herd of purebred  
cattle will be established, too. This  
will also help diversify his farm pro-  
gram.

He has purchased a ditcher to drain  
low spots that delay spring work, and  
plans to dig a pond as well. Another  
year he may try fertilizer. His yields  
have been good so far, but he would  
like to see if it will speed the grain to  
maturity, or contribute to more uni-  
formity in the crop.

For his winter slack season this  
year, he had another good idea. He  
visited experimental stations and agri-  
cultural schools, to search out more  
information that he can apply on his  
own farm. He calls farming a highly  
competitive business, and has no  
notion of lagging behind in the  
struggle to produce crops more effi-  
ciently on western farms.—D.R.B. V

## Selling Cattle By Community Auction


*This southern Alberta co-op filled a  
need and is now strongly supported*

by DON BARON

IN only 15 years, the Community  
Auction Sales Association Ltd. of  
southern Alberta has suffered and  
survived the early growing pains of a  
new co-operative. Organized to do a  
job that stockmen wanted done, it  
overcame the setbacks caused by early  
resignations and reorganizations, and  
now has sold more than \$3.5 million  
worth of livestock from ranches and  
farms in a single year. From the five  
sales centers selected in 1939, using  
railroad facilities, it has expanded and  
built accommodation of its own at nine  
Alberta towns. Finally, it has pointed  
the way for other districts which have  
since developed their own livestock  
auctions.

Early records of the organization are  
incomplete, but it is known that in  
1945 a total of 11,682 head were sold  
for \$897,000. Then, with the rising  
price of cattle, business mushroomed  
and in 1948, 21,842 head sold for  
\$3,601,098. Since then, turnover has  
fluctuated from the 13,837 head sold  
in 1951 for nearly \$3.5 million dollars,  
to the 1954 record of 23,316 cattle  
bringing over \$2.3 million. Though the  
Association once had 11 sales points—  
now nine, after Nanton and High  
River dropped out—it is credited with  
forcing the Calgary Public Stockyards  
into auction selling, a system which  
farmers have wholeheartedly ap-  
proved. Operators on the Calgary





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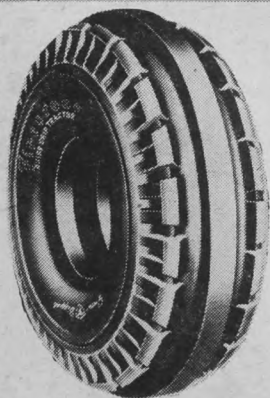
No other tractor tire has so much to offer. First you save on your farm operating costs with a low price, and you save again by getting much more work done.

The Firestone "Deep Tread" gives deeper soil penetration. The deeper curved bar center bite and big, powerful shoulders give maximum drawbar pull in any soil condition.

You get longer tire life because the Firestone "Deep Tread" has more tread rubber than other tires in its price range. You save with many extra hours of service.

Compare before you buy!

Get the full story and the low price for your tire size at your nearby Firestone Dealer or Store.



### LOW PRICED "GUIDE LINE" Front Wheel Tractor Tire

Improved, long-wearing tread design with three ribs for easy steering. Rugged shoulders resist side slipping.

**13<sup>30</sup>**  
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### NEW LOW PRICED "STANDARDS" for your car

Here's Canada's biggest low-priced tire bargain — Firestone quality and lifetime guaranteed. Like more expensive tires, it contains the famous Firestone extra values for greater strength and long, low-cost mileage.

**14<sup>95</sup>**  
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# BACKACHE May be Warning

78

Backache is often caused by lazy kidney action. When kidneys get out of order, excess acids and wastes remain in the system. Then backache, disturbed rest or that tired-out and heavy-headed feeling may soon follow. That's the time to take Dodd's Kidney Pills. Dodd's stimulate the kidneys to normal action. Then you feel better—sleep better—work better. Get Dodd's Kidney Pills now.

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## RHEUMATIC PAIN Can Be Costly!

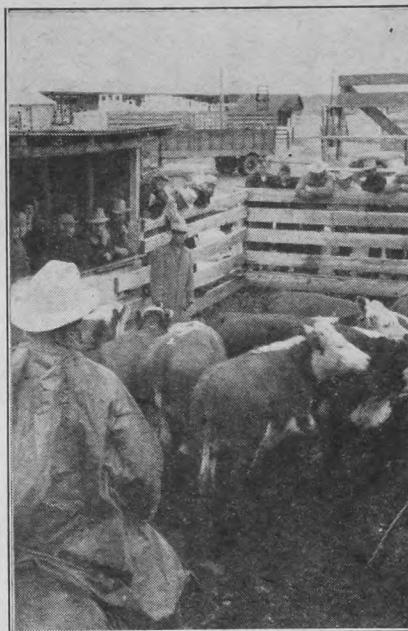
"This winter I had to quit work because of rheumatic pain," writes Mr. T. Glofcheskie, Wilno, Ont. "I became fearful of being laid up as on a previous occasion with rheumatic pain. My pain became increasingly severe and spread from hip to ankle. Out of bed, the leg felt cold as though in cold water, so I stayed in bed. A friend persuaded me to take T-R-C's and I'm glad I did. In a short while I was relieved of my pain and was soon on the job again."

Don't suffer from Rheumatic or Arthritic pain. Take Templeton's T-R-C's—Canada's LARGEST-SELLING proprietary medicine to bring quick relief from such pain. Only 79¢, \$1.50 at druggists. T-34

Stockyards, with their premises jammed to capacity with a record run of cattle last fall, wish the community auctions continued success. Vern Parslow, one of the long-time commission merchants on the Yards, while insisting that the market price is still established, over a period, at the Yards, says that if a district has enough good cattle, community sales will market them to advantage.

The purpose of establishing these sales, says Marcel Hockstein, one of its keenest supporters, was to kill off the travelling drovers who were fleecing too many cattle growers in the country. Lacking market information, he says, ranchers and farmers often sold so cheaply that buyers made more profit from a single deal than the producer made in the entire season. Although many buyers were highly respected, stockmen seemed to agree that they were in no position individually to match wits with people who bought and sold cattle every day. They took to co-operative selling as the way out.

The early months were the most difficult. Three directors resigned soon after a start was made. An outside group was even given an option to buy the new facilities, though records don't tell why the deal was not completed. Later still, the Association was forced to renounce responsibility for a bill run up by an early manager. The Association was incorporated August 31, 1939, with shares at \$100 each and an authorized capital of \$20,000. The shares were split to bring their value down to \$5.00 each, in April, 1943,



A group of Herefords at the Lundbreck open air community auction last fall.

after which the number of shareholders increased rapidly, and it became more nearly like a full-fledged co-op.

That year, Walter Jenkins of Twin Butte was named president, holding that position for half a dozen years, during which the sales expanded and achieved greater usefulness. Explaining their popularity, he estimates that each fall, 90 per cent of the cattle ready for market in the Pincher Creek area, the busiest auction point, go through the auction ring. With charges of only \$1.00 per head, plus one per cent of value, up to a maximum of another \$1.50, it is a logical spot to sell. Now, with a brand new \$5,000 covered-in sales arena, buyers can bid in comfort in the worst of weather.

Other factors, too, have contributed to the success. Cyril Hockstein, prominent rancher, Aberdeen-Angus breeder and director from the Pincher Creek district, says that buyers are familiar with the kind of cattle going through the sales, for they are local cattle. And they can see and bid on more cattle in half-a-day at the sale, than they could in several days travelling from farm to farm. He adds that cattle are healthy, too. Many of the calves are vaccinated for shipping fever; and the sales yards, used only a few times a year, are clean.

MANY other factors help. Located near several good markets, cattle can be shipped north to Calgary, east to Ontario feedlots, south to the rich American market, or over the Rockies to North America's newest market, the fast-growing coastal cities. Right in their own backyard, the growing cattle-feeding industry in the irrigation districts of Alberta bring a steady demand for good stock.

Consignors like selling their animals close to home, also. Many lots are trailed in off the range, and the rest come by truck. If consignors don't like the price, they can by-bid the cattle and take them home, although this seldom happens. Again, it gives them a chance to buy a neighbor's cattle before they get too far from home.

Despite early troubles, a careful management policy has kept the Association in good financial shape, and this is credited with encouraging many stockmen to join. Walter Jenkins recalls that the Association once looked

for government financial aid. When a representative finally came to see what assistance could be given, he found them in too sound a condition to warrant help.

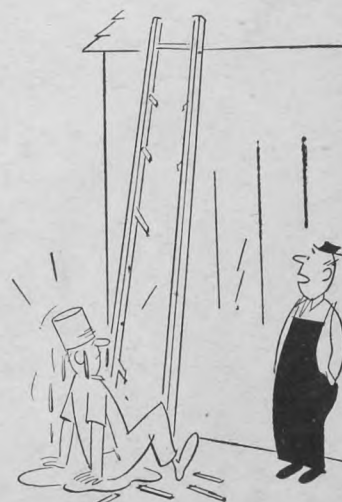
Thus, every fall is sale time in the cattle districts of southern Alberta; and each September, the three-man crew begins travelling the sales circuit once more. Elvin Leavitt of Cardston weighs the cattle over the scales, while Harry Taylor and Joe Mendeloff of Pincher Creek keep the records and take payment. Within a matter of hours, Secretary-treasurer Walter Upton will have cheques on their way to consignors from the Association office at Pincher Creek.

Since an Association auction is a community activity, nearly everyone from the district will be out, if the weather is good. Working hard to be sure that all is in readiness as each sale day arrives, will be the district directors. One is stationed at each sales point. C. F. Hockstein will be at Pincher Creek; Herb Christie, at Whiskey Gap; Regis Morkin, at Claresholm;



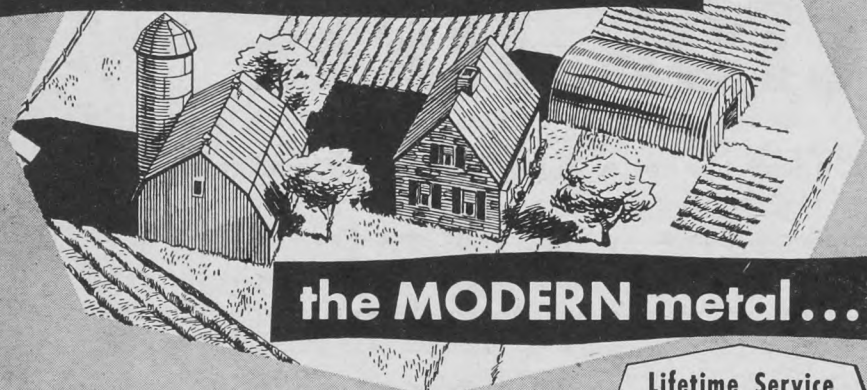
Walter Jenkins, president, Community Auction Sales Association Ltd., discusses the 1954 sales with Marcel Hockstein.

holm; A. M. Connelly, at Lundbreck; J. A. Wellman, at Parkbend; Leo Doenz, at Warner; while covering his own sale at Pakowki, or any of the others, will be the president, A. W. Stringam. This co-op found an important need to fill for stockmen, and shrewd management has seen it grow into permanency.



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# Lower Yields From Early Varieties

*Lower yields from earlier varieties of cereal grains give them only a limited place in central Alberta*

ALTHOUGH the average growing season in central Alberta—based on actual temperature records—might indicate that only very early maturing crops can be grown successfully, A. D. McFadden, Dominion Experimental Station, Lacombe, points out that such is not the case. Actually many medium and later-maturing varieties of cereal crops can be grown to full maturity even though they need as many or more days to mature than the

average number of days in the growing period of any one zone. Early varieties have their places in Alberta, but since they do not yield as heavily as the later ones, especially oats and barley, he suggests that too much emphasis has been placed on their value. Trials at Lacombe during the crop years 1947 to 1951 bore out these facts, when all commercial varieties were seeded both early and late. The

mean seeding dates were May 12 for the early seeded tests and May 30 for those seeded late. Early seeded wheat during the five years gave 52.5 bushels per acre for Thatcher, compared with 48.8 bushels for Saunders. The late seeded plots gave the earlier maturing Saunders a slight advantage—37.1 bushels as compared with 35.4 bushels for Thatcher. Comparison of Eagle and Larain oats showed the later maturing Eagle yielding 99.8 bushels in the early seeding, an advantage of 16.1 bushels, while in the late seeding, all yields increased. Eagle jumped to 104 bushels, and Larain to 96 bushels. Barley results were different, Newal yielding 80 bushels, compared with

# BABY'S COLDS

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Medical Science denies there is any such thing as a cure for colds—only Nature herself can do it. So when baby's sniffles, or stuffy breathing warn you of a cold's presence—cooperate at once with Nature. See that baby is kept warm, gets plenty of sleep and take extra care that the bowels are thoroughly cleared of harmful wastes. To do this without upsetting baby's whole system and further weakening it, try Baby's Own Tablets. Mild, yet act promptly in getting rid of irritating materials that make baby restless and feverish. One Nova Scotia Mother says: "My baby of 26 months caught a nasty cold so I tried Baby's Own Tablets and she threw this cold off quicker than ever before. I certainly am for Baby's Own Tablets from now on." Equally good for restlessness and peevishness resulting from irregularity at teething time, for constipation, digestive upsets and other minor infant troubles. Taste good and are easy to take! Get a package today.

# WHY YOU SHOULD TREAT SEED GRAIN WITH "CERESAN" SEED DISINFECTANT

EXPERIENCE AND FIELD TRIALS SHOW DU PONT "CERESAN" SEED DISINFECTANTS GIVE SUPERIOR SEED PROTECTION EVERY YEAR

Each spring seed and soil-borne diseases, in the form of root-rots, smuts and seedling blights, reduce the yield of the crop you plant. According to the 1954 Manitoba Seed Grain Survey, 42% of seed wheat and 95% of the barley samples studied were infested with smut spores. Agricultural authorities recommend seed treating both to control smut and to protect the developing seedling from molds and fungi in the soil. The best and simplest way to protect the seed you plant and ensure maximum yield is to treat your seed grain before planting with "Ceresan" seed disinfectant. Here's why:  
"Ceresan" prevents smut in wheat, oats, flax, and covered smut in barley. "Ceresan" protects seed and seedlings from root-rots, seedling blights and decay.



## HOW TO TREAT SEED WITH "CERESAN" SEED DISINFECTANTS HOME TREATMENT

"Ceresan" can be applied by a hand method or preferably applied by an automatic treater.

### Manual method

Seed should be cleaned and well cured before disinfection. Stir 14 ounces of "Ceresan" into 3 quarts of water. This is sufficient to treat 28 bushels of grain. Spread seed on a clean floor, sprinkle the slurry mixture evenly over the seed. Turn at least three times with a shovel. Let vapour action of "Ceresan" work for 24 hours before planting.

### Automatic treater

"Ceresan" M may be applied dry in a dust-type treater—or if you have a slurry treater, "Ceresan" M2X is especially formulated for simple slurry treating.

"Ceresan" is available at your local farm supply store.

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### ON SEED—VAPOUR ACTION

On application, "Ceresan" gives off a highly effective mercury vapour which destroys fungi and bacteria on the surface of the seed and penetrates into cracks and crevices in the seed to give maximum disinfection. *It is this volatile vapour action in addition to direct contact which enables "Ceresan" to do a superior seed disinfecting job.*

### IN SOIL—PROTECTIVE FILM

"Ceresan" forms a protective film which protects the seed after planting from the soil-borne fungi which cause seed decay, root-rots and seedling blight. This protection means higher germination and vigorous emergence that results in thicker, stronger stands which produce higher yields.

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Breaks up phlegm—eases wheezing.

68.6 bushels for Olli in the early tests. In the later seedings, Newal gave only 70.9 bushels compared with 56.8 bushels for Olli.

These results make it obvious, says Mr. McFadden, that very early maturing varieties of oats and barley will not produce the high yields that can be obtained from later maturing varieties, unless seeding is delayed to the point where the later maturing sorts are sure to be damaged by fall frosts.

**H**OW best, then, can early maturing varieties be used? Should they be seeded early, to secure an early harvest, and allow considerable time to carry out fall tillage operations? This would promote germination of shattered grain and weed seeds, and incorporate some stubble in the soil in keeping with suitable trash-cover practices. Or should they be used for late seeding, allowing considerable spring tillage, with a view to killing two or three crops of weeds before the grain is seeded?

Referring to harvesting conditions and precipitation records from 1916 to 1941, at Edmonton, in September, October, and early November, Mr. McFadden points out that there is

better than a five-to-one chance in favor of having enough dry weather to dry stooks for threshing.

As to delayed seeding and weed control, he refers to work done at Melfort, Saskatchewan. There, it was pointed out, heavy seeding along with phosphate fertilizers drilled in with the seed, usually resulted in upping yields. In addition, heavy seeding with fertilizer decreased the weed seed infestation in 1935 from 28.5 to 5 per cent. The amount of wild oat seeds was reduced by 92.9 per cent.

Mr. McFadden finds two places, then, where early varieties can be satisfactorily used. First, when large acreages extend the seeding period over a month, both early and late varieties can be used. Second, he suggests that smaller operators use early maturing varieties only when seeding is delayed to a date when it would be too much of a gamble to expect the higher yielding varieties to reach maturity without serious damage from fall frosts.—D.R.B. ✓

## Newfoundland To Be T.B.-Free

by D. W. S. RYAN

**N**EWFOUNDLAND is well on the road to becoming a bovine tuberculosis-free province.

Since June, 1950, the provincial Department of Mines and Resources, in co-operation with the Federal Health of Animals Division, has been carrying out an island-wide testing survey. To date some 13,000 cattle have been tested and less than two per cent have shown reaction to the tests.

The 210 reactors have been removed from the herds and disposed of under supervision of the Health of Animals Division.

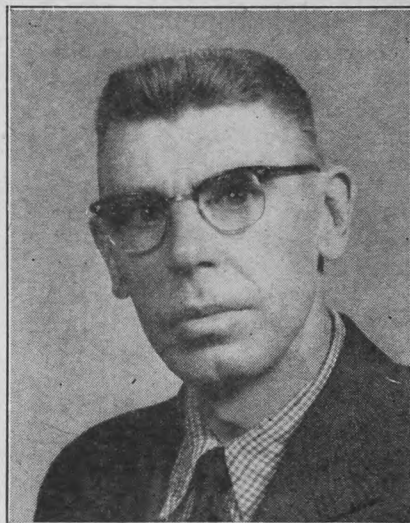
The disposing of reactors is different in Newfoundland from the procedure followed on the mainland, where the owner must transport his animals to a government-inspected slaughterhouse, where the animal is sold on a graded basis, providing the carcass passes inspection. If it does not, however, the owner is compensated by the Federal government.

Newfoundland has no government slaughterhouse. The procedure therefore, is different. To evaluate the animal, an appraisal committee has been

ernment's policy and the compensation paid.

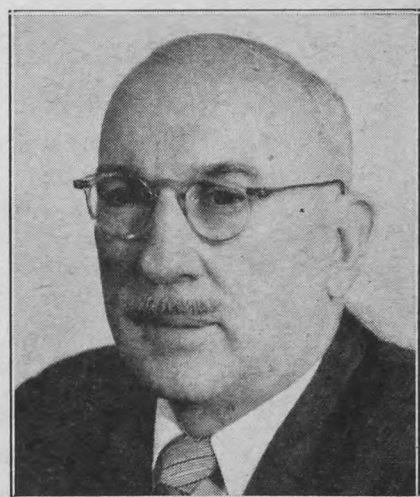
All of the island, with the exception of the Burin Peninsula area on the south coast, and the Great Northern Peninsula on the north coast, has been declared a bovine tuberculosis-free area. Testing in these areas has now been resumed after being suspended until last November.

These two remaining areas are somewhat sparsely populated with cattle, having less than ten per cent of the island's herds. ✓



P. J. Peters

**E**FFECTIVE March 1, P. J. Peters was named Potato Specialist for the Manitoba Department of Agriculture and Immigration, succeeding N. Sandar, who has accepted a position with the North Dakota Agricultural Experimental Station at Fargo. An R.C.A.F. veteran, Mr. Peters received his B.S.A. from the University of Manitoba last year and is presently concluding studies for his Master's degree there. During the past three years he has been closely associated with the University's potato breeding and research program. ✓



C. H. Goulden

set up by the government, consisting of two farmers and one member of the agricultural division. They appraise all animals at replacement value. The provincial department then pays the owner 100 per cent compensation and sends the animal to a slaughterhouse on the mainland.

Proceeds from the sale of carcasses and hides and from compensation paid by the Federal government are collected by the provincial Department of Mines and Resources.

Cattle owners throughout the province are well pleased with the gov-

**R**ECENTLY appointed as Director of the Experimental Farms Service, Canada Department of Agriculture, Dr. C. H. Goulden succeeds Dr. E. S. Hopkins who has retired after 35 years' service. A native of Bridgehead, Wales, Dr. Goulden joined the Department in May, 1925, as Officer in Charge of cereal breeding work at the Plant Breeding Laboratory, Winnipeg. Through his efforts disease-resistant varieties of wheat such as Renown, Redman, Regent, Coronation, and Selkirk were made available to western farmers. ✓



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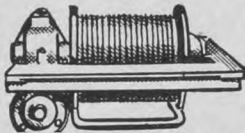
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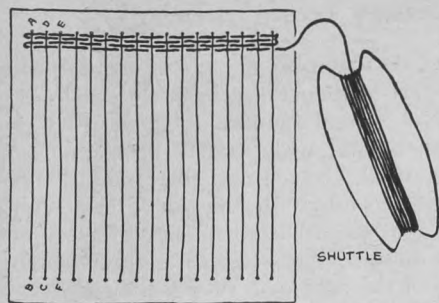
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# The Country Boy and Girl



*Never mind March, we know when  
you blow*

*You're not really mad, or angry or bad.  
You're only blowing the winter away  
To get the world ready for April and  
May.*

**B**LUSTERY March winds blow but  
we are thinking and looking for-  
ward to spring, the budding of the  
trees, the grass turning green and the  
return of birds.

Soon it will be Easter! You can surprise Mother with a little gift. Mother is always happy when her boy or girl makes a gift especially for her, for their own work has an extra special meaning to her. Try weaving a woollen square which she could use for a pot holder. All you need is some stiff cardboard and a ball of wool. Cut a piece of cardboard ten inches square, now mark off eight inches of it into one-half inch spaces along two opposite sides. With some wool in your darning needle thread the wool on your loom from A to B, then pass over the wool underneath the cardboard to C and return to D (see diagram) so that you have sixteen runs of wool across your cardboard—this is called the warp. From cardboard make a bobbin as shown and wind wool on it. Now you are ready to weave under and over (alternating this process each row), back and forth to fill in the warp. Use a pin to hold the wool at the end of each line if you are having trouble keeping the sides straight and be very careful not to draw the wool too tight. Later on you may try weaving larger pieces, such as a coverlet for a doll's crib.

*Ann Sankey*

## Penny's Valentine

by Mary Grannan

**P**ENNY buried her face in her pillow, and sobbed as if her six-year-old heart would break. She had waked that morning, looking exactly like a red and white polka-dotted handkerchief.

"Chickenpox!" said her mother. "You'll have to stay in bed, dear. I'll call the doctor after breakfast."

Penny shook her head, emphatically. "But I can't stay in bed, Mum," she said. "I have to go to school. It's St. Valentine's Day, and we have a valentine box."

Mrs. Green shook her head, emphatically. "You surely don't want to carry the chickenpox to the other children. I know you're disappointed about the valentine box, but it just can't be helped. I'll call your teacher and ask her to get one of the children to leave your valentines on the porch."

Penny buried her head in the pillow. She had looked forward to that exciting hour when the valentines were taken from the beautifully decorated box, and handed to the children. She was still crying, when the doctor arrived.

"Upon my word, Penny Green," he said, as he wrote a prescription. "I am surprised at you. You'll be up and about in a few days. Chickenpox is nothing to cry about."

Penny sobbed out the reasons for her distress. When the doctor heard about the valentine box, he paced the floor for a few minutes, in deep thought. He could cure the chickenpox, but a cure for such great sorrow was another matter. Suddenly, he snapped his fingers.

"Penny," the doctor said, "I'm going to get you a valentine, and I'm going to put some sassafras tea on it. There's magic in sassafras!"

"Is there?" said Penny, who until that moment had never heard of sassafras.

"Oh yes!" said the doctor. "I've always known that. I have some in my medicine cabinet at the office. I'll get the valentine, sprinkle it with sassafras, and bring it to you on my way to the hospital."

Penny smiled for the first time that morning. She waited patiently until she heard his car stop at the door, a short time later. He did not come in, but handed the valentine to her mother. Mrs. Green hurried upstairs with the large, white envelope. "The doctor told me that you would understand what to do with this," she said. "What is it, dear?"

"A magic valentine, that's all," said Penny, smugly.

Mrs. Green raised her eyebrows. "In that case," she said, "I'd better go downstairs."

Penny did not urge her mother to stay, because she knew that the magic was for her, alone. When she heard her mother's footsteps in the hall below, she opened the envelope. She squealed in delight. It was the most beautiful valentine that she had ever seen. Nestled in lacy folds, lay a large, red satin heart. It was plain to Penny, that the heart was a door, because on one side of it, there was a little golden button, serving as a knob. Above the golden knob, was a tiny brilliant bell. Penny pulled the bell cord. The heart opened, to reveal a garden wall. Red roses wound themselves around and about. The sky beyond the wall was of forget-me-not blue. As Penny gazed at the beauty of the landscape she heard a soft sob. Someone was crying, as she herself had cried a short time ago. She opened the gate, and saw lying on a grassy mound, a little princess with her face buried in the tall grass.

"What's the matter?" asked Penny. The little girl lifted her head. Penny laughed. The little princess' face

looked like a polka-dot handkerchief. "You've got the chickenpox," Penny said.

The princess looked at Penny. "So have you."

Penny nodded. "But I wouldn't cry about it," she said. "The doctor told me that chickenpox was nothing to cry about."

"It is, too," said the princess, bursting forth into fresh tears. "I was going to serve tea this afternoon, to His Royal Highness, Prince Valentine. But I couldn't face him this way. I look just too awful. He'd laugh at me."

Penny had an idea. "Tell me where Prince Valentine lives," she said. "I'll go see him, and he'll get chickenpox too, and then he will look just as funny as we do."

The little princess pointed the way to Penny, and she left the garden, and went up the hill to the castle. She knocked at the door, and asked to see his Royal Highness, Prince Valentine.

She was told that he would see no one. "But why?" asked Penny. "He is supposed to have tea with the princess, in her garden."

The footman lifted his hands in despair. "I know," he said. "But I'll tell you a secret. His Royal Highness has the chickenpox. He could never

face Her Highness. She would laugh at him."

Penny, laughing, told the footman to tell His Highness, that Her Highness also had the chickenpox, and that she was sobbing her heart out, in the garden.

"Do you know," said the princess, a short time later, as she passed the heart-shaped cookies to Penny, "I've never enjoyed a St. Valentine's Day quite so much."

"Neither have I," said Penny. "And of course it's all because of sassafras tea."

The next day, Penny tried to go through the red satin heart-way again. But it did not open when she rang the bell. The doctor was not surprised. "It was valentine magic," he said, "and St. Valentine's Day comes but once a year."

## Try It On Your Friends

Today, Dad is three times as old as Junior. When Junior was born, Grandpa was twice as old as Dad. And when Junior will be twice as old as he is today, Grandfather will be only three times as old as Junior.

How old are Grandpa, Dad and Junior now?

(50-30 and 10 years old).

## Sketch Pad Out-of-Doors

No. 37 in series—by CLARENCE TILLENIUS



TRACK OF DEER HERD  
IN CRUSTED SNOW.  
LATE WINTER

**S**NOWSHOEING along the Red River one day I came, all at once, on a mink track. Over and around snowbanks, in and out of holes in the bank; now racing up into the river woods, now down to the water's edge to investigate something interesting. The track lent to the snowy scene a sudden and enlivening interest.

Looking at it, I was struck once more by this power of tracks to capture one's attention. Just the track of a redpoll gathering seeds in a field will draw your attention, momentarily, from the most compelling landscape. One reason for this is that tracks are a truthful account of something that happened—if they can be deciphered. Sometimes conditions are not right, and the tracks are too indefinite or blurred to read. For man, that is. The animals depend almost entirely on

their noses to study tracks and what they read from a track makes a man seem blind by comparison.

Tracks are not easy to draw. One must always bear in mind that no track is ever like another, but that the tracks of each species have a family similarity. For instance, one wolf track looks more like another wolf track than either of them looks like a bear track.

Try to stand so that the light falls across the tracks at an angle, or from the side. The shadows cast on the track and the light falling on the edge will throw into relief the characteristic contour and give you something definite to set on paper. One should not forget that tracks can also be an important factor in the composition of an animal drawing or landscape.



# THE *Country* GUIDE

with which is incorporated

THE NOR'-WEST FARMER and FARM and HOME  
Serving the farmers of Western Canada Since 1882

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## C.F.A. Policy Statement

THERE was issued last month, from the central office of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, a statement of farm policy which had been approved at the annual meeting of the Federation, at Edmonton, in January. The policy statement is in partial fulfillment of a directive by the 1953 annual meeting of the Federation, which resulted in the naming of a special policy committee at the semi-annual meeting in that year. To date, this committee has finalized its recommendations only on marketing and price support policy: consequently, these alone are dealt with in the statement. Other aspects of farm policy such as farm credit, education, international trade, co-operation, research, and agricultural extension, are still to be dealt with.

It is not possible to deal here in any satisfactory manner with these two major items of C.F.A. farm policy. A more extensive article will appear in the April issue of *The Country Guide*. The two principal viewpoints expressed in the statement, however, are these: (1) That the C.F.A. favors the principle of producer marketing boards, as a supplement, where needed, to voluntary co-operative marketing; and (2) that the Federation also favors support prices based on "basic," or parity prices, calculated according to a fixed formula which takes into account the cost of goods and services purchased by farmers. The formula, the C.F.A. believes, should be written into legislation, which should provide for flexible supports within a specified range, as percentages of parity, and be assured each year for certain important farm products. For all other products, support prices would be at the discretion of the Minister of Agriculture.

No doubt these matters will be widely discussed during the coming months: Indeed, active discussion is under way now on the subject of producer marketing boards. We suggest that readers attempt to satisfy themselves as to the principles underlying both ideas. If the principle is sound, the details will fall into place more easily and logically, whereas, if it is unsound, there is little need to discuss them.

## Diagnosis and Remedy

FROM very early times, agriculture has been diversified and complex. With the passing of years, and as population and knowledge have increased, the tendency has been for agriculture, as an industry, to become more and more varied and complicated. Very often, changes take place and are unnoticed by many farm families, who, because they are primarily concerned with their own affairs and the seasonal demands on their time and thought, recognize only the consequences, which they may not be able to trace back to their causes.

Quite properly, society has surrounded and supported agriculture with a wide variety of protective devices and services, provided by both federal and provincial governments. The total number of acts of parliament and legislatures, designed for this purpose and relating to the prairie provinces alone, is probably not far from two hundred; and individual services made possible by this legislation represent a far greater number. This point is illustrated by a small publication received recently from the Alberta Department of Agriculture, which has outlined its functions and services in brief form. The publication lists departmental services under more than seventy-five headings, most of which represent groups of services. If a similar listing were made for the Federal Department of Agriculture

the total would be a very imposing one. Such a federal list, quite apart from activities arising out of specific legislation in the fields of marketing, statistics, investigation, experiment, and research, would include many services which ordinarily are not provided by provincial governments. Western universities also provide some distinctive services, in addition to many of the same general character as are available from governments.

Aside from the problems relating to farm production and rural living, farmers are directly affected by many other conditions and factors of general application, provincially or nationally. It is only necessary to mention education, roads, freight rates, tariffs, public health and international trade, to emphasize the increasing number of difficult problems facing the industry.

Production problems recur annually, in varying degrees of intensity. Most of the more general problems are also of concern to rural Canada year after year. If the farmer aspires to good living on the farm, these many problems make it necessary for him to take advantage of such services as society has provided for his use, as and when they are needed. Perhaps the greatest tragedy involved in the failure of agriculture to achieve equality with comparable business elsewhere in the economy, arises out of a dangerous kind of individualism, or a misleading feeling of independence, on the part of many farmers. The problems facing every farmer are too numerous and difficult of solution for him to solve them without the assistance of the many services available to him. Unfortunately, governments, especially the Federal government, are often asked for the wrong remedies, when a primary cause of the ailment is poor farming, the remedy for which must be self-administered, and is to be had for the asking.

## Drought Ahead?

A VERY interesting warning article has appeared in the Reclamation Era, the official publication of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. It is entitled, "More Dry Years Ahead," and was reproduced from *The Country Gentleman*. The writer is I. R. Tannehill, formerly assistant chief of the U.S. Weather Bureau. Mr. Tannehill is described by the Bureau of Reclamation as a recognized world authority on weather, and the author of an outstanding work entitled "Drought, Its Causes and Effects."

Some time ago we called attention on this page to the fact that the drought which has characterized the last three or four seasons in the United States, has been creeping northward. Last year it almost reached the Canadian border and did, in fact, affect southwestern Ontario. We have no foreknowledge of what the weatherman has in store for us, beyond the next thirty days as outlined in *The Country Guide* weather forecasts, but it is well to take heed of what those who are acclaimed as authorities, have to say on the subject. Here, in a nutshell, is Mr. Tannehill's summing up of the situation:

"... the country is now in a dry cycle that is likely to hold on for seven or eight years longer. Not all of these years will be dry, and none of them is apt to be dry in all parts of the country. Two or three of them are apt to be fairly wet in most of the States, but, as a whole, the block of years extending to 1962 will average considerably drier than normal. In several of these years there will be dust blowing again in the southwest, especially in the late winter and early spring. Many parts of the country will continue to be plagued by drought at one season or another, most likely in the warmer part of the year."

There are few who would anticipate a dry year in the prairie provinces in 1955, in view of the excess moisture carried over in the soil from last fall. On the other hand, there was no reason to expect a bumper crop in 1942, following the low moisture content of the soil in the fall of 1941. No one seems to have truly established the relationship between dry and wet cycles in the United States, and in Canada. Nevertheless, if the full round of

years, from dry to wet, to dry again, is from twenty to twenty-four years, prairie farmers should soon make such preparations as can be made, for the beginning of a dry cycle, if indeed we are not already in it.

## Lesson from Industry

THE rapid development of agricultural production on this continent has been the inevitable consequence of several significant factors. First, is the vast amount and wide variety of natural resources with which Canada and the United States are endowed. Second, is the inevitable and rapid development of industrialization and urbanization arising from these resources. Third, is the uniquely safe position of this continent during the forty-year period since the outbreak of World War I, during which our geographical position, plus our ability to produce large amounts of food products in excess of our own requirements, helped materially to win two world wars. Fourth, is the fact that because of its biological nature, agriculture became the experimental area within which much of the new knowledge now commonly accepted in medicine and nutrition, was discovered. Fifth, is the tremendous scientific development arising out of the war periods, from which agriculture has benefited substantially. Sixth, has been the rapid increase of population on this continent, under pressure of these world forces and of excessive populations elsewhere.

It would not be too much to suggest that agriculture has characteristically lacked the dynamism of urban-centered industry, and, to a considerable extent, has been the passive creature of forces external to it. This situation is due to the nature of farming, to the natural conservatism of those who accept it as a way of living, and to the reluctance with which modern farming is accepted as a business, both by those on the farm, and away from it.

Under these circumstances the Canadian farmer could easily have been much less fortunate if it had not been for three circumstances. One of these is the type of democracy which has become traditional with us. The second and third, arising out of the first, are the agencies which have been developed in the fields of agricultural research and extension. Combined, these agencies place in the hands of farmers who will make use of them, an opportunity to develop a relatively independent, comfortable, and satisfying life on the land.

Large-scale industry maintains its own research laboratories because it finds the results of research profitable. U.S. industry, which is said to turn out around 47 per cent of all world manufacturing, has spent \$49.5 billion on research since 1946, or twice as much as for all previous years in the history of the U.S. During the same period, the U.S. government spent \$11 billion on research, also twice as much as in the preceding 175 years. One large American chemical company since 1941 has begun to sell more than 250 new products. As early as 1950 these accounted for 43 per cent of its gross profits and had brought a return of \$2.80 for each dollar invested in research. One very large U.S. corporation spends about six per cent of its total sales dollars for research and development, and another large company, 5.3 per cent. A fifth recently advertised that one out of every five people working for it, owes his job to products which the corporation did not make before 1945.

Individual farms cannot maintain research laboratories. Consequently, agricultural research is carried on, for the most part, at universities and other state-operated institutions, as well as by some large commercial organizations. There is, therefore, a great deal of comparatively new research information available to Canadian farmers, some of which could no doubt be profitably applied on every farm. Canadian agriculture could well afford to learn a lesson from industry and maintain an insistent demand for the steady progress of research, and an equally steady increase in the efficiency and amount of extension services. These are the places where individual farmers, and farm organizations as well, must learn to speak loudly on behalf of agriculture.

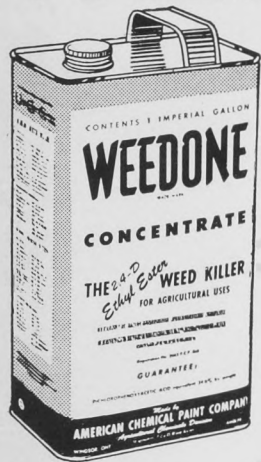


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—From THE COUNTRY GUIDE, Jan. 1955.

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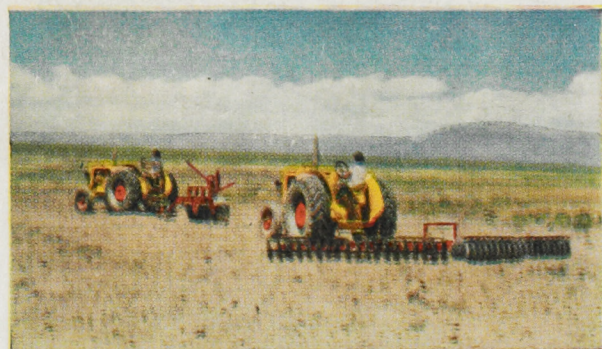
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First white man to venture upon the waters of Lake Huron, first white man to see Lake Ontario, first explorer of the interior of Canada . . . Etienne Brule was the pioneer of pioneers. Like his French compatriots, the wilderness held no fear for him. His explorations were important

factors in the establishment of an empire that stretched from the St. Lawrence to the Mississippi, down to the Gulf of Mexico, west to the Rockies, and north to Hudson Bay. He was the first white fur-trader on the rivers and lakes north and west of Quebec. He made it possible for men like Louis Hebert and Abraham Martin, the pioneer farmers, along with a colony of a hundred, to become permanent citizens of Canada . . . the first enduring population of the Dominion of Canada.

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